

U.S. adds conditions to Soviet call

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States might withdraw its warships from the Gulf if there was a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and the Soviets did the same, White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker said Sunday. Mr. Baker's statement was Washington's first reaction to the Soviet Union's call last Friday for foreign warships to leave the Gulf and prevent escalation of hostilities. The United States has said it will provide naval escort for Kuwaiti ships registered under its flag. Kuwait has also leased Soviet flag vessels to carry its oil. "If the Soviets will remove their (ships), perhaps we will take a fresh look, but we certainly are not going to cede control of that region to the Soviet Union," Mr. Baker said in an interview on U.S. television. He said Iranian and Iraqi forces would also have to return to internationally recognised boundaries and release their prisoners. Mr. Baker said the best hope for a solution was the effort by the United Nations Security Council to approve a ceasefire resolution and win agreement from Iran and Iraq. Mr. Baker said the U.N. effort, which President Reagan initiated, would "give us all the opportunity to get away from a difficult situation."

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Mahdi in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi arrived here on Sunday on the first leg of a six-day tour of Gulf Arab states during which he is expected to seek substantial aid for Sudan's battered economy. A Sudanese embassy official said Mr. Mahdi would meet President Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders in Baghdad. Diplomatic and political observers in Khartoum said Mr. Mahdi had started his tour in Baghdad in an apparent bid to offset any unfavourable impressions among the Gulf Arab states over his visit last year to Iran.

China assails Israel

BEIJING (R) — China has renewed relations with the Israeli Communist Party but still condemned the Israeli government's Middle East policy, the official New China News Agency has reported. Politburo member Hu Qili told a visiting Israeli Communist Party delegation that China strongly condemned Israel for "its policy of aggression and expansion." His comments followed remarks made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to parliament last week that he believed China would agree to diplomatic recognition of Israel as the price of a proposed U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference.

Algeria celebrates Independence Day

ALGIERS (AP) — The wife of President Chadli Bendjedid blew out candles on a giant cake and cars filled with young people, blowing horns wildly, streaked through city streets, as Algeria celebrated its 25th year of independence from France this weekend. About 3,000 guests were invited by the president to join in the celebrations that began Saturday and continued through Sunday night.

U.S. offers to help scrap Lavi but Israel may continue

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States has offered Israel financial incentives to scrap the costly Lavi fighter project but the programme may continue, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday. The cabinet failed again on Sunday to reach a decision on the controversial warplane for the 1990s. Official sources said both Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were looking for ways to continue a scaled-down version of the project through spending cuts. Mr. Rabin, who returned Monday night from talks in Washington, told the cabinet the U.S. administration was prepared to let Israel spend more of its annual \$1.8 billion military aid grant to meet cancellation costs.

Masked men raid Swedish barracks

STOCKHOLM (R) — Two masked gunmen on Sunday raided a high security barracks which houses the crack regiment responsible for defending key Swedish government buildings, a military spokesman said. He said the men took a guard into opening a bullet-proof door at the entrance to the central Stockholm barracks, threatened him at gunpoint and handcuffed him to a chair.

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King: Efforts for int'l conference have reached an important stage

VIENNA (Agencies) — Jordan's efforts for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East have made progress and reached an important stage, His Majesty King Hussein was quoted as saying Sunday.

"We have reached an important stage, if not the final crossroads" in preparing for the conference under U.N. auspices, the King was quoted as saying by the Austrian Profil magazine in an interview conducted during the July 1-4 visit to Jordan of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim. The King said that U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would issue invitations for the proposed conference, including "the five permanent members of the Security Council and conflicting parties to solve the Palestinian problem."

The King did not elaborate beyond saying that the invitations would be issued, Profil said. The King's comments, appearing in German, were made available on Sunday, one day ahead of normal publication.

The Arab states are seeking such an international conference on the Middle East but there are divisions within the Israeli coalition government over the issue. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the Likud bloc, opposes the conference idea while Foreign Minister Shimon Peres favours it.

Asked about Mr. Shamir's stand, the King told Profil: "What I've heard of the premier's comments do not exactly encourage me, but I hope the last word has not been spoken yet."

Profil quoted the King as saying that the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was welcome for consultations with Jordan despite the Kingdom's decision last year to suspend political coordination with the PLO leaders.

"We Jordanians would be happy if the world were to accept an independent Palestinian delegation seeking an independent Palestinian state. But this seems to come up against enormous difficulties in the U.S., Israel and elsewhere," he said.

The King said he had always believed that both the United States and the Soviet Union should play a decisive role in the Middle East peace process.

"As both superpowers want to remove the atomic threat to humanity, they must now be interested also in a solution to the Middle East problem which equally threatens world peace."

The magazine quoted the King as saying that Dr. Waldheim, who left Jordan after his four-day visit on Saturday, was a "man of peace and moral integrity." Dr. Waldheim is accused by Jewish groups of involvement in Nazi atrocities during World War II.

The Austrian leader has described the allegations as "fabrications, distortions and misrepresentations."

In his interview, the King repeated a vow never again to ask the U.S. for arms after Washington withdrew from a \$1.9 billion deal last year, Profil said.

The proposed U.S. arms package included advanced jet fighters and anti-aircraft missiles. The administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan backed out of the sale due to overwhelming pro-Israeli opposition in Congress.

"The U.S. government decided not to provide us with the weapons we need for our defence, although it was our traditional supplier," the King said.

"We have decided never again to demand weapons from the USA."

Rifai delivers King's message to Assad and reviews Arab situation

By a Jordan Times Staff

Writer with agency despatches

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai paid a working visit to Damascus on Sunday to deliver a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and to discuss with the Syrian leader the latest developments in the Middle East and issues of common interest.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, did not give any detail of the content of the King's message but reports from Damascus suggested that it was related to Jordan's efforts towards reconciling Syria and Iraq.

Mr. Rifai, who returned home Sunday evening after the visit, also conferred with his Syrian counterpart Dr. Abdul Raouf Al Kasm. Petra said the two prime ministers discussed the Arab situation in general and the current situation in the Middle East region. They also reviewed moves and measures adopted by the two countries to further promote and bolster bilateral cooperation and coordination in all fields.

Diplomats quoted by Reuters



Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Rifai hold talks in Damascus on Sunday in a meeting attended by Syrian Premier Abdul Raouf Al Kasm (right) (Petra photo)

The three-hour meeting between President Assad and Mr. Rifai focused mainly on King Hussein's efforts to reconcile Syria and Iraq.

The diplomats said Mr. Rifai, who was last in Damascus on June 24 when he accompanied the King on a visit to Syria, had probably briefed Mr. Assad on the King's talks last week with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Rifai made Sunday's visit shortly before French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond arrived in Amman, a day after Austrian President Kurt Waldheim ended a visit to Jordan.

Dr. Kasm also hosted a luncheon in honour of Mr. Rifai at the Al Radwa Palace in Damascus on Sunday. It was attended by senior Syrian officials including Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Salim Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister for Services Affairs Mahmoud Gaddour, Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa, Interior Minister Mohammad Ghabbashi, Minister of Presidential Affairs Wahid Fadel, Minister for Prime Ministry Affairs Abdul Mum'min Al Hamawi and Minister of Local Administration Mohammad Harba.

U.S. congressmen discuss Gulf war with Iraqi leaders

BAGHDAD (AP) — A U.S. congressional delegation discussed the Iran-Iraq war, now in its seventh year, and U.S. intervention in the region with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on Sunday, a U.S. embassy source reported.

The U.S. group, led by Representative Les Aspin, a Wisconsin Democrat, flew into Baghdad for a three-day visit earlier Sunday after talks with officials in Kuwait. The delegation had earlier been in Bahrain.

The U.S. embassy source, speaking on condition of anonymity, gave no other details of the talks with Mr. Aziz.

But Baghdad Radio said the congressmen discussed the "situation in the region and issues of mutual concern" with Mr. Aziz, who is also a deputy prime minister.

Mr. Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, and his group of 11 congressmen and 15 aides are investigating the bazaar that face merchant shipping and U.S. warships in the Gulf region.

They have discussed with Kuwaiti and Bahraini officials Washington's moves to register 11 Kuwaiti tankers in the United States to give them the protection of U.S. navy ships from Iranian attack.

Tehran accuses Kuwait of siding with Iraq and has singled out

Bombs kill 7 and wound 50 in Lahore

LAHORE (Agencies) — Three explosions Sunday at the city's main railway station killed seven people and injured at least 50, authorities said.

The attacks coincided with the 10th anniversary of the coup that brought President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq to power.

Police said they don't deny anti-government activists were involved in the attacks in Lahore, the capital of Punjab state, but they did not elaborate.

One bomb was planted in a trash can at a platform. A second was in a kiosk near a taxi stand just outside the station, said police officials. The bombs went off five to 10 minutes apart.

Official Radio Pakistan said a third explosion occurred about an hour later at the Badami Bagh main bus station, injuring three people.

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), a nine-party alliance demanding General Zia's ouster, planned anti-government rallies around the country Sunday. Gen. Zia ousted Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on July 5, 1977. Mr. Bhutto later was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder and was hanged in 1979.

His Majesty and Raimond discuss peace efforts and Iran-Iraq war

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond held talks Sunday on France's contribution to Jordan's efforts towards convening a proposed international peace conference on the Middle East.

The King and Mr. Raimond also reviewed the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. It did not elaborate.

The French foreign minister, who arrived here earlier on an official visit to Jordan, said that divisions within the Israeli coalition government remained one of the main problems facing the convening of the proposed peace conference.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Raimond told reporters the idea of the proposed conference, which is backed by the French government, had gained considerable momentum.

"From the moment the idea was revived in July 1986 it has taken a more prominent place," he said. "Despite the difficulties, I think it is a good idea."

France, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, had voiced its support for Jordan's call for convening the conference during visits to Jordan by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

During his 24-hour stay in Jordan, Mr. Raimond is expected to



His Majesty King Hussein meets French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond on Sunday (Petra photo)

discuss with Foreign Minister Taher Masri and other Jordanian officials the latest developments in the region as well as bilateral relations.

A report from Paris said Sunday Mr. Raimond had decided to cut short his trip to Jordan so he can return to France which is embroiled in a diplomatic dispute with Iran. The dispute surrounds an Iranian embassy employee, Wahid Gordji, wanted for questioning by a judge investigating the bombings in Paris in September that killed 13 people and injured 250 others (See page 2).

In his arrival statement, Mr. Raimond said that all measures taken by France against the Iranian mission would be lifted when Mr. Gordji answered the summons of the prosecutor probing the bomb attacks.

"The problem is very simple," he told reporters at the airport. "Mr. Gordji must surrender to the summons of the prosecutor and from that moment all the measures taken around the embassy will be lifted."

The visit to Jordan by Mr. Raimond has been described by a senior embassy official here as a follow-up to the European Community's endorsement in February of the idea of an international peace conference for negotiations to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

France had been playing a leading role within the European Community in helping to bring about an end to the Middle East problem and the nearly seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Israel bans Gaza fishing for second time in two months

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel has banned the large fishing fleet in the occupied Gaza Strip from putting to sea for the second time in two months, foreign aid officials said Sunday.

They said the Israeli military governor ordered the Gaza Fishermen's Union on Friday not to fish until further notice.

An Israeli patrol boat rounded up more than 50 boats which were at sea at the time and the military governor went to the local mosque to inform fishermen of the ban.

Captain Eli Horowitz, a spokesman for the military authorities, said the order was issued for "security" reasons.

A 28-day fishing ban imposed in May after six Palestinians escaped from Gaza's main jail cost the fishing industry an estimated \$2.4 million in lost earnings, aid officials said. Only one of the fugitives was recaptured.

Fishing is one of the few local industries in the Gaza Strip and

provides part of the staple diet of 600,000 Palestinians who live in the impoverished area's teeming refugee camps and towns.

The ban affects about 1,000 fishermen. Each day of lost fishing costs the Gaza industry an estimated \$86,000.

Meanwhile, Israel's military chief in the occupied West Bank, where a bomb blast injured 15 people on Saturday, said Palestinian commandos were trying to destroy Arab-Jewish coexistence in the area.

The bomb exploded in a restaurant in the town of Qalqilya. There was no claim of responsibility and police said there was no way of knowing whether Jews or Arabs were responsible for the attack.

It occurred less than 24 hours after the Shabiba wing of the Fatah movement called for a week of protest action against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

The occupation authorities responded by ordering the Al Na-

jab University in Nablus to remain closed throughout Saturday.

Interviewed on Israel Television after the Qalqilya explosion, Brigadier Ephraim Sneh said: "Coexistence is a reality. You can see it here particularly on Saturdays, with the town full of Israelis shopping and eating in restaurants and it is exactly that contact the Palestinian activists want to smash."

Qalqilya mayor, Mohammad Abu Sneh, condemned the bombing, which he said had angered and saddened residents of the town.

In another development, Israeli legislators urged the dismissal Sunday of a general who heads a museum because he publicly proposed the expulsion of Arabs from the occupied territories.

Rehavam Zeevi, formerly in charge of the occupation army in the occupied West Bank, made the suggestion in a lecture Saturday at Tel Aviv University.

Mubarak and Peres likely to hold talks in Geneva this week

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak are likely to meet in Geneva later this week for talks on an international Middle East peace conference, Peres' aides said Sunday.

They said the cabinet at its weekly session authorised Mr. Peres to make the trip despite the fact that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his right-wing Likud bloc remain vehemently opposed to a peace conference.

The sources said Mr. Mubarak had agreed in principle to meet Mr. Peres during a meeting of a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on Wednesday and Thursday.

"He received government approval today," an aide said, adding that last details were being finalised and it would be known for certain on Sunday if the meeting would take place.

"I think it will be 'yes,'" the aide said.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Mubarak last met in Egypt in February and issued a joint statement calling for a peace conference to be convened this year.

Since then, Mr. Peres has failed to swing a majority of Israel's coalition government be-

hind the proposal and been unable to force early elections on the issue.

Foreign ministry officials said that even if the Israeli deadlock on the issue persisted, the meeting with Mr. Mubarak was a welcome opportunity to discuss bilateral Israeli-Egyptian ties.

Mr. Shamir's spokesman Yossi Ahimeir said Mr. Peres made no mention of talks with Mr. Mubarak when he obtained cabinet blessing for his Geneva trip on Sunday but the prime minister did not oppose such a meeting.

A foreign ministry source told AP it had not yet been decided whether Mr. Peres would meet with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar during the two-day Geneva conference.

He said Mr. Peres might meet

with U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Murphy, scheduled to meet in Geneva with his Soviet counterpart Vladimir Polyakov of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Polyakov are expected to discuss possibilities for convening the international peace conference.

Egypt this week protested against an Israeli plan to pump water from the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem and complained that the scheme constituted a violation of international law.

Mayors in the West Bank have complained that such a well would exacerbate an already serious water shortage faced by Arabs in Bethlehem and nearby areas.

FOR RENT

Furnished apartment consisting of two bedrooms, L-shaped hall, bathroom with an extra toilet, a large kitchen and a separate direct telephone. It is located opposite Shmeisani Bookshop.

For further information, please contact Mr. Marar, phone: 661049.

Iranian missiles placed on launchers at Hormuz

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Iran has begun to place its Chinese-made anti-ship missiles on launchers at the strategic Strait of Hormuz, Gulf-based marine salvage executives said Saturday.

The missiles reportedly were test-fired in the area in February, but the salvage executives said some were placed on launchers Friday, making them fully operational against shipping.

But a U.S. government official involved in Middle Eastern affairs said that according to information available to him Friday, the Silkworms were "not operationally deployed."

"I would be very cautious about reporting that the missiles have been deployed," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A State Department spokeswoman had no comment on the report.

The United States, which recently has bolstered its military forces in the Gulf, has repeatedly warned that any move by Iran to deploy the missiles would be a major danger to shipping in the strategic waterway.

The salvage executives, who insisted on anonymity, said the launchers were at the port of Bandar Abbas overlooking the vital strait, and possibly on near-

by Qeshm Island, which belongs to Iran.

They said they were told of the deployment by their radio monitors, who listen for developments in the Gulf and have tugboats on alert for salvage operations.

The missiles have a range of about 80 kilometres and are capable of threatening all shipping in the strait.

Washington reportedly has drawn up contingency plans for a pre-emptive attack on the missile emplacements as one possible move to reduce the danger to shipping in the waterway.

The southern Iranian port of Bandar Abbas overlooks the Hormuz, and Qeshm Island, a large tract on Iran's side of the Gulf waters.

There was no immediate confirmation from military sources in the United States or elsewhere concerning the latest reports from the salvage executives.

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger on Tuesday had told reporters at the White House that the Iranian Silkworms were not yet operational.

When the missiles were tested earlier this year, shipping sources said the Iranians fired them at a old ship's hull off the naval base at Bandar Abbas. They said the Iranians hit the simulated target with obvious ease.

Iran has threatened to make the Gulf sea lanes insecure for all countries of the region if its war foe, Iraq, continues to raid Iranian shipping and block its oil exports.

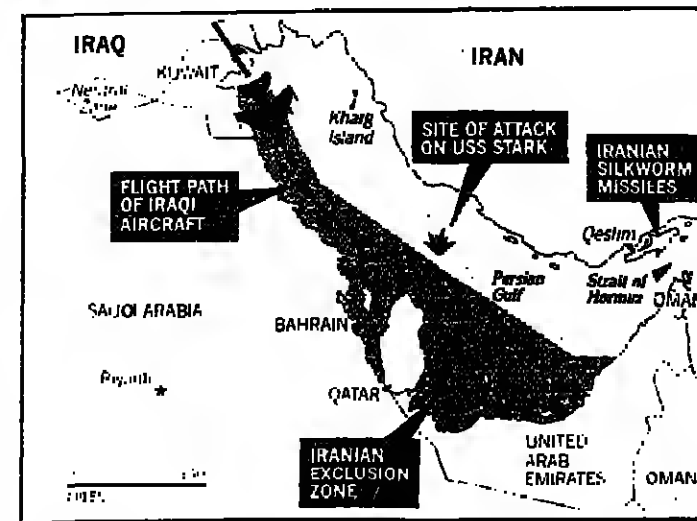
Tehran accuses Kuwait of aiding Iraq's war efforts and has been sending its gunboats raiding Kuwaiti tankers.

Kuwait has turned to the United States for protection against Iran, and Washington was to fly the American flag atop 11 Kuwaiti tankers. The tankers will thus be entitled to American warship protection in the Gulf.

Iran has warned that even American warship escorts will not deter it from raiding Kuwaiti ships.

The U.S. navy was expected to maintain a force of three large cruisers, one destroyer, and four guided-missile frigates, in addition to the command ship Lathrop on station in the Gulf by mid-July.

In Bahrain, a U.S. navy spokesman for the command of



the Middle East Force, Stephen Honda, confirmed there were now "approximately eight" navy vessels in the Gulf.

The U.S. aircraft carrier Constellation was to arrive at a point in the Arabian Sea shuttling the Hormuz sometime in the coming week, Pentagon sources said in Washington. The U.S. navy also has ordered the battleship Missouri to the Gulf.

The decision to beef up the naval force was made after the May 17 Iraqi missile attack on the frigate USS Stark. Washington accepted an apology by Iraq, which said the Stark was mistaken for an Iranian warship.

The United States said it will exert itself to arrange a peaceful end to the 6½-year-old Iran-Iraq war. Failing this, Washington emphasised it would use its military might to protect its interests

and those of friendly Arab countries in the Gulf region.

Iran's Parliament Speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, on June 26 dubbed the United States a "wounded wolf" and warned that "if America sheds one drop (Iranian) blood in the Gulf, there will be a river of blood flowing in the world."

Iranian officials have scoffed at reports the United States could launch a pre-emptive attack to wipe out the missiles, saying they can quickly be moved away from danger on mobile launchers.

Iran's War Information Headquarters chief, Kamal Kharrazi, has said "it is no secret that the (Silkworm) missile launchers at Iran's disposal are quite mobile and could be quickly moved to a safe location within a few minutes of their loads being fired."

North to tell his story at last

By Sue Baker
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Much of the mystery surrounding Oliver North may be stripped away this week under the glare of television lights as the fired White House aide tells his Iran-contra story for the first time in public.

"I expect it will be dramatic and fascinating," said Representative Henry Hyde, one of the 26 lawmakers who will question Col. North under oath for four days starting on Tuesday.

"He is clearly the focal point of all we've been doing. All roads lead to North," the Illinois Republican told Reuters.

In the seven weeks of hearings so far, the decorated Vietnam combat veteran has seen his super-patriot image badly dented by revelations of possible personal profit and many members have expressed growing doubts he will tell the truth.

Nevertheless, Col. North's testimony has high stakes for many figures in the bungled foreign policy escapades he ran from the White House. And President Reagan, already scarred by the affair, could have the most to lose.

Since the scandal erupted last November, Mr. Reagan has denied repeatedly that he knew of the scheme, allegedly run by Col. North, to divert millions of dollars from the covert sale of U.S. arms to Iran to Nicaraguan contra rebels.

What Mr. Reagan knew is "the Mega question," said Mr. Hyde, one of several North loyalists on the committees who have begun to doubt their hero.

The Marine colonel, fired by Mr. Reagan from the National Security Council (NSC) last Nov. 25, is one of only two men interrogators believe can answer that question.

The other is Col. North's former boss John Poindexter, an admiral who resigned as Mr. Reagan's national security advisor the same day Col. North was fired.

Neither has spoken publicly about his role in the scandal. But both have accepted limited immunity from prosecution in return for their testimony before Congress.

That will protect their testimony from use against them in a separate criminal probe being conducted by independent special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh.

Adm. Poindexter probably will testify next week.

One witness said Col. North related how he once joked with Mr. Reagan about the irony of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini unwittingly helping them arm the contras.

But a Justice Department official who questioned Col. North on the issue two days before Nov. 25 last year, told the committees Col. North said he never told Mr. Reagan about the diversion and "didn't think" it had been approved.

Some legislators remain sceptical. They point out that Col. North's lawyer at that time told the same official Col. North wanted to "step forward and take the spears in his own chest."

Moreover, one day after the lawyer's comment, Mr. Reagan did something Col. North had not been expecting — he fired him.

It was a move some legislators believe was an attempt to make the 43-year-old Marine, whom Mr. Reagan once called a "national hero," a scapegoat for the entire affair.

As part of that effort, administration officials have sought to portray Col. North as a rogue elephant, a can-do officer who ran amok, wheeling and dealing

arms and hostages in over-

zealous pursuit of Mr. Reagan's goals.

The arms sales to Iran were an attempt to buy freedom for U.S. hostages being held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian extremists and ran counter to stated U.S. policy against dealing with states believed "to sponsor terrorism" and Mr. Reagan's off-stated pledges not to pay ransom for the hostages.

But several witnesses said Col. North told them he was acting with the president's knowledge and approval in his efforts to free the hostages and arm the contras using private and third country donations during a 1984-1986 congressional ban.

"They feel like they were doing the lord's work — worked like dogs ... and believed they were not violating any laws," Thomas Green, Col. North's one-time lawyer, was quoted as saying by the Justice Department official.

Answering reporters' questions last week as he headed into a private session with the committee interrogators, Col. North pledged to tell the truth.

Col. North often boasted about his relationship with Mr. Reagan and suggested he had ready access to the Oval Office. White House records show he attended several meetings with the president but never alone.

At several Capitol Hill appearances last December, Col. North repeatedly refused to testify, citing his legal rights against self-incrimination.

But at one hearing, when a congressman suggested his silence was unpatriotic and damaging to Mr. Reagan, Col. North replied: "I don't think there's another person in America who wants to tell this story as much as I do."

This week he will be given his chance.

Turkey seeks to keep out of Mideast turmoil

By Paul Bolding
Reuters

ANKARA — Visits to Turkey by His Majesty King Hussein and a top Gulf official have focused attention on the role this strategically-placed NATO member country could play in seeking peace in the Middle East.

But diplomats said Ankara, while showing interest in the problems of the region, would do all it could to avoid becoming closely involved.

"Turkey knows anything it does in the Middle East is bound to antagonise someone, and probably one of its neighbours," one envoy said.

Both the King and Abdullah Bishara, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) grouping Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, sought Turkey's help in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war when they visited Ankara last week.

Diplomats said the King's hastily-arranged visit was mainly designed to seek Turkey's views on his attempts to convene a Middle East peace conference and to secure a rapprochement between Syria and Iraq, both Turkey's neighbours.

Turkey also borders Iran. The long frontier area in the south-east with Iran, Syria and Iraq is particularly sensitive because each has a Kurdish minority with links to the Kurdish Worker's Party, the rebel group waging a guerrilla war against Turkish forces.

Turkey is pulled in various directions as a member of the

Western alliance bordering the Soviet Union, a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and a country that has striven to strengthen relations with Israel, with which it maintains low-level diplomatic ties.

Columnist Coskun Kirca, a former career diplomat, writing in the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet, noted that Premier Turgut Ozal often proclaims Turkey to be a power in the region and said it should be more active.

"It would be inconsistent for Turkey to say it is an important country in the Middle East and at the same time hold back from overtly stating its views because of a few radical Arab states. We can play a role and put forward our views," Kirca wrote.

One Western envoy said there was no clear role for Ankara to play in helping stage a Middle East peace conference.

King Hussein, in a dinner speech, called on Ankara to press Iran to talk peace in its seven-year war with Iraq. "We hope Turkey will insist that Iran follow the laws of God and accept decisions on ending this tragic war," he told President Kenan Evren.

The King's arrival came a day after Mr. Bishara sought the help of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in efforts to end the war.

He told the semi-official Anatolian Agency he had explained the attitude of the GCC, which supports Iraq, and said: "I asked Mr. Ozal to support us, to

work with us... I asked for support in the (United Nations) Security Council. We need Turkey's help on the Gulf question and the Iran-Iraq war."

Gen. Evren told King Hussein Turkey supports the idea of an international conference and they expressed similar views on the rights of the Palestinian people and the need for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

Gen. Evren, in his dinner speech, however, made no suggestion Turkey would deviate from its neutrality in the war between Iran and Iraq.

Diplomats say Turkey, which has offered to mediate between Iran and Iraq, hopes for lucrative business in both countries after the war ends with reconstruction contracts and expertise.

It has good ties with both on a formal level, but Iraqi delays in trade payments have caused rancour and the refusal of Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, on a visit to Ankara this month, to honour Turkey's secularist founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, left a bitter taste.

Mr. Ozal, meanwhile, is due to visit Syria soon to try to improve relations made fragile by Turkey's damming of the Euphrates River, which they share, and by Turkish allegations of Kurdish rebel bases in Syria.

All Turkey's aims could be spoiled if it were sucked into regional disputes, said one Western envoy. "Turkey has never wanted to be a real player on the Mideast stage. It wants to keep out of the morass," he said.

NBC film on West Bank upsets U.S. Jews

NEW YORK — A storm has blown up here over an NBC documentary, screened on Wednesday night, dealing with Israel's 20 years in the West Bank and Gaza. The television film, Six Days Plus Twenty Years: A Dream is Dying, is as its title implies, sharply critical of Israel.

The film shows Israeli troops kicking and beating West Bankers, Meir Kahane threatening to expel the Arabs, and liberal Israelis talking about "the corrupting effects of the occupation."

NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw states: "This was not supposed to happen when Israel won its victory 20 years ago. The hope was for a permanent peace."

Other negative images show Israeli soldiers demolishing the homes of commando suspects and fencing off Arab shops in Hebron. Interviews with Jewish settlers show them laying claim to the West Bank on the basis of payments made by the Patriarchs Abraham and Jacob and by King David.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith criticised the programme by calling it "one-sided," while the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York said: "It was a simplistic and one-sided view of a very complicated issue that was distorted and unbalanced."

Television reviewer John Corry wrote in The New York Times: "We would have a surer sense of what it was all about if NBC had

included an old-fashioned map. It is impossible to understand the occupation without knowing about Israel's geography."

A spokesman for the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee, Faris Bouhafa, called it "a breakthrough in network presentation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," and said that the Palestinian viewpoint had been presented "with extraordinary accuracy."

Paul Greenberg, the director of the documentary, said he had chosen not to include an official Israeli statement on the grounds that "government spokesmen always say the same things."

Greenberg suggested that the American Jewish community "should pay attention to the programme and think, because the situation really exists. To deny it and say it will go away is like ignoring a cancer in your own body." — The Jerusalem Post.

Turkey and U.K. to discuss EC

LONDON (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Vehit Halefoglu arrived in London on Sunday on an official visit focusing on Cyprus and Ankara's plans to join the European Community (EC). Mr. Halefoglu will meet Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on Monday. Defence Secretary George Younger on Tuesday and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday.

Israeli Arabs establish watchdog committee

HAIFA (AP) — The leaders of Israel's 700,000-strong Arab minority established on Saturday a special committee to seek equal rights with the country's Jewish majority, an Arab leader said.

"This is the beginning of a new period of Arab relations with Israel," Magid Al Hadji, chairman of the National Arab Educational Committee, told the Associated Press.

He said the decision was adopted at the Saturday meeting of the National Committee of Arab local councils, Arab members of parliament and Arab offi-

cials of the Histadrut Labour Federation.

Last month, Israeli Arabs staged a full-scale commercial strike to protest alleged discrimination by the Jewish majority and to demand more government spending on schools, health and other services in Arab towns and villages.

"This was the first time in our history that the Arab community in Israel was so unified," Mr. Hadji, a Haifa University lecturer, said in reference to the strike.

He said in an interview members of the new committee will

meet with Israeli officials and "check if they are serious in their promises that they have made to us."

He said that among the steps the new committee considered was a proposal to keep schools in the Arab sector closed next September if further education budgets are not allocated to Arab municipalities.

"We are considering different steps but all of us agree that the time for equality has come. Without equality we can not talk about democracy," Mr. Hadji said.

Iran allows French diplomats to move freely

PARIS (AP) — The Iranian government on Saturday agreed to allow French diplomats and employees to move freely in Tehran, after keeping 28 people confined to the French embassy for five days, according to a Foreign Ministry announcement.

In a statement released Saturday, the ministry said "Iranian authorities decided Saturday afternoon to authorise embassy personnel to leave and return."

However, Iran retained the right to check the identity of all

those departing and entering. The announcement seemed to signal a shift in the diplomatic standoff between France and Iran that had developed during the past week.

Eleven women, 16 men and a baby had been confined for five days to the French embassy compound in Tehran in retaliation for a stakeout by French police at the Iranian embassy in Paris.

French authorities had been looking for Wahid Gerdji, wanted since June 3 for question-

ing in connection with a wave of Paris bombings in which 11 people died and 150 others were hurt last September.

Gerdji, who is listed officially as a translator but is considered by French authorities to be a "pivot" in clandestine activities, does not have diplomatic status. He took refuge in the Iranian embassy and presented himself Thursday night, translating at a news conference.

He has not yet agreed to questioning.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		
Tel: 74111-19		
PROGRAMME ONE		
15:30	Koran
15:50	Programme Review
15:55	Cartoons and children's programme
16:35	Children's scientific programme
17:00	Silver-Spoons
17:30	The Wonderful World of Magic
18:00	Arabic series
18:30	Local dialogue
19:15	Message from Oman
19:30	Programme on the Armed Forces
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:20	Varieties programme
22:00	Arab scholars
23:00	News Summary in Arabic
23:10	Arab scholars continue
PROGRAMME TWO		
18:00	Rue Cormot
18:30	L'expression de monde
19:00	News in French
19:15	Sport magazine (French)
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Beyond 2000
20:00	Arabic series
20:30	Throb
21:10	Courage (mini-series)
22:00	News in English
22:20	Goya
23:10	Love Boat
RADIO JORDAN		
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07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:30	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Just a Minute
11:00	Follow the Wind
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session (Cont.)
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Flam Magic
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	International
16:35	Old Favorites
17:00	Now Session
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18:00	News Summary
18:30	Sports Roundup
18:35	Musée
19:00	News Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show (Cont.)
BBC WORLD SERVICE		
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07:45	Reflections 07:50	Wavelength
08:00	World News 08:20	24 Hours
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08:45	Nature Note
09:00	Recording of the Week
09:10	Newsdesk 09:30	Forecasting the Future
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New writers federation announced to replace recently dissolved JWA

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is to have a Jordanian Writers Federation (JWF) which will replace the dissolved Jordanian Writers Association (JWA), Minister of Culture, Tourism, Antiquities, and Information Mohammad Al Khatib announced Sunday.

In making the announcement, the minister said that the federation would be a meeting place for creative citizens who would offer services to their country and serve as beacons for their countrymen.

Last month, the government decided to dissolve the JWA, which grouped more than 300 members, charging that the members engaged in political activities incompatible with their work as writers.

Many of the members expressed a strong negative reaction to the government's measure in interviews with the Jordan Times at the time of the closure.

According to Mr. Khatib, 40 writers have approached his ministry with requests for the establishment of the JWF with the purpose of stimulating the literary movement and the cultural activities of the Kingdom.

He said that the proposed federation will have its headquarters in Amman, but soon there will be branches in the main cities of the Kingdom.

The minister said that the 40 writers who submitted requests for setting up the new federation will be considered as constituent members who will now elect a chairman and 10 board members to serve for a transitional period of one year after which the general assembly will convene to elect a new board that will serve for two years.

According to the Jordan News



Minister of Culture, Tourism, Antiquities, and Information Mohammad Al Khatib announces the plans to form a new Jordanian Writers Federation in the presence of some of the 40 writers who submitted the request for the new federation (Petra photo)

Agency, Petra, most of the constituent members had served as members in the former association. The additional members are university professors and established writers.

Members of the new federation will be able to benefit from social security system, housing projects and other benefits that the government provides its employees and workers. Also, through a new law still to be endorsed by the government, they will be offered financial assistance to help them lead a comfortable life and continue their literary work, the minister said.

The new federation's headquarters will be in the same premises of the former association for the time being, until a new location is agreed on, the minister said.

The following names were

given as members of the new JWF's constituent assembly: Roks Al Uzai, Nayef Abu Ubeid, Abdul Qader Roba'i, Suleiman Al Musa, Mahmoud Shalabi, Hani Al Amad, Sabhan Khalefat, Mohammad Abu Hassan, Yusef Al Ghazal, Ali Al Hamad, Abdullah Mansour, Nurat Abdul Rabman, Salman Budur, Louis Mugattash, Ahmad Jaber, Samia Al Sharif, Mustafa Al Far, Mohammad Samhan, Ibrahim Al Samman, Abdullah Rashid, Ribhi Omar, Azmi Khamis, Mazen Staid, Hamoudeh Zalloum, Atallah Abn Ziyad, Haidar Mahmoud, Hind Abul Shaar, Farouk Jarrar, Salah Shubul, Mahmoud Al Tal, Hani Khair, Mohammad Abu Soufa, Dianddin Al Rifai, Yusef Ghanemeh, Suleiman Oweis, Abdul Fattah Nafe', Hassab Abu Ghani, Saad Abu Dayyah, Isam Al Mousa, Samir Qatami.

Hamdan tours Tafleeh Governorate

TAFLEH (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yusef Hamdan Al Jaber visited Sunday Tafleeh Governorate, where he discussed projects being executed by municipalities in the governorate. He also opened a public library in the city of Tafleeh.

The work of municipalities should complement that of his ministry which strives to support local council's projects with all available means, the minister said at a meeting attended by heads of municipal and village councils.

He said that the government, under directives from His Majesty King Hussein, is trying to extend technical and financial help to municipalities to develop all regions.

Acting upon these directives, the minister noted that development schemes have been worked out for each municipality with the purpose of raising its standards and boosting its efficiency in implementing projects.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is intent on achieving a reversal of migration to urban regions by providing all services in rural areas of the Kingdom, the minister pointed out.

A working paper on ways to organize in order to handle problems confronting the development process in rural regions was discussed at the meeting. The working paper suggested that the Ministry of Public Works undertake the burden of financing road projects and exempt local councils' purchases from customs duty. The paper also urged the minister to make additional allocations for projects being implemented by local councils.

The minister began his tour by visiting the governor's house and the municipality offices in Tafleeh where he was briefed on municipal services.

After the meeting, it was announced that the ministry will study a request for lending Tafleeh Municipality JD 394,000 needed to finance its main shopping centre in the city and establish an area to make and sell handicrafts.

The ministry will send out a technical team to Tafleeh to make an assessment of the city's needs, according to a statement which followed the meeting.

Later, Mr. Hamdan inaugurated the public library in Tafleeh which cost JD 15,000 and announced that the ministry will offer the library JD 500 and 100 books to promote its cultural activities.

He also opened Tafleeh's new slaughter house which cost JD 22,000 and laid the foundation stone for a shopping centre at Al 'Eis village, a project expected to cost JD 42,000.

The minister afterwards made an inspection tour of the village of Al Baida where he opened its new municipality building and visited Grandal where he held a meeting with heads of local councils to review public services.

King, Queen greet Children's Congress

By Peter Baratta
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Smiling faces, colourful clothing and traditional folksongs and dances filled the Al Nadwa Palace Sunday afternoon as Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor greeted the 7th annual Arab Children's Congress.

Sitting among the 67 children from 15 Arab countries, the Queen watched individual and groups play instruments and perform traditional Arabic songs and dances for the audience.

The event, briefly attended by the King, was part of the week-long congress, which brings Arab children to Jordan each year to learn about Jordanian and Arab culture.

Began in 1980 by the Queen and hosted by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) since 1985, the Children's Congress has brought some 450 children to Jordan to learn more about their Arab heritage, the Queen said.

While teaching the children about Arab culture is important, one of the congress' main goals is to create a family-like atmosphere among the group, she said.

"I hope these children are developing a sense of identity with each other. Whatever they see, wherever they go (while in Jordan) is not so important as the spirit of family that develops," the Queen told the Jordan Times.

Since its foundation, Jordan

has faced numerous challenges, she said, adding that "whatever I'm trying to do (with the Children's Congress) is for future generations so they will be full of hope and faith for their future."

In his opening remarks, Issam Zawawi, director of the Children's Congress Programme, thanked the King and Queen for their support of the event and their concern for children which he said goes beyond national borders.

Mr. Zawawi also thanked the congress' preparatory committee and the participating countries for their support and cooperation.

In'am Mufti, director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, said the NHF is trying to create a programme that will enable it to stay in touch with alumni of the Children's Congress and allow all participants to attend an alumni conference.

The alumni conference will help the NHF to "fulfil our aims for building up close relations among Arab children," Mrs. Mufti said.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor receive children of the seventh Arab Children's Congress on Sunday (Petra photo)

The congress helps "give the first spark of a flame that could grow and grow" to gifted Arab children who can later take leading roles in their respective countries, Mrs. Mufti said.

She said the congress was developed following an Arab summit conference held in Amman in 1980 and the United Nations' designation of 1979 as the International Year of the Child.

Mrs. Mufti said the Queen was interested in creating a programme that would allow Arab children to come together and learn about their binding culture and traditions.

The programme was run through the Queen's office before the NHF began sponsoring it with the foundation's inception in 1985, she said.

Earlier Sunday, the children met with Mrs. Mufti and Mr. Richard Reid, regional director of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and watched a documentary about the organization's activities.

Monday, the group is scheduled to visit Petra and Tuesday, they plan to travel to the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. On Wednesday, the children will attend the opening festivities of the Jerash Festival before leaving Jordan on Thursday.

The children, who arrived in Amman July 2, visited with Jordanian families and toured the Haya Arts Centre, the Roman amphitheatre in downtown Amman, the folklore museum, the Martyr's Monument, and an Armed Forces unit in Irbid.

New ambassador to Iraq presents credentials

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan's newly appointed ambassador to Iraq, Hilmi Al Lawzi Sunday presented his credentials to Iraqi deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, Mr. Izzat Ibrahim.

Mr. Lawzi conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hussein to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi people and the

Armed Forces.

Mr. Ibrahim praised Jordan's support for Iraq in its war with Iran and its efforts to defend Arab soil.

Later, the ambassador delivered a message to Mr. Ibrahim from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The message deals with bilateral relations.



Mabrouk

Marwan Muasher, whose biweekly "Talking Straight" column in the Jordan Times did not always go in straight, is trying something that is hopefully less turbulent and more permanent for a change. Marwan, 31, and Lynne Farraj, 26, entered the golden cage yesterday, with hundreds of their friends and relatives attending their wedding ceremony, and reception at the Marriott Hotel.

The bride, a graduate in sociology from the American University in Beirut 1982, works with the Jordan-Kuwait Agriculture Company; while the bridegroom, a Ph.D. in electronic engineering from Purdue University in Indiana, is director of the Planning Ministry's information centre. Information on the newly formed centre will appear in the Jordan Times only after the honeymoon in Hawaii, of course.

Meanwhile, the staff of the Jordan Times would like to wish the couple a happy and thoroughly enjoyable life. Many, many Mabrouks.

Workshops study results of education evaluation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has invited experienced educators to take part in workshops of teachers and officials from the ministry on developing a new education system in the country.

The educators and veteran teachers will also be helping in sorting out questionnaires completed by education teams sent out to provinces over the past two months to collect data and information and also to test proposals for updating the education system.

On June 28, the ministry announced that a national conference on education will be held in August, one month before the reopening of the Kingdom's schools for the 1987/88 scholastic year. This conference will review the result of the work of the education teams and also of the questionnaires.

The conference comes in the wake of inspection tours of the Kingdom's schools by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The Crown Prince visited schools

and held meetings with educators and officials from departments of education, accompanied by Mr. Thawhan Hindawi, minister of education.

According to the Ministry of Education, experienced teachers and veteran educators can take part in discussions which started Saturday covering the future curricula at schools, education supervision, training of teachers, examinations and vocational training.

The discussions, the ministry said, are being held in a number of schools in Amman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet approves protocol with Romania

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet has approved a protocol of economic, trade and technical cooperation signed between Jordan and Romania. The protocol is in implementation of an agreement for economic cooperation between the two countries signed in 1979. The protocol was signed between the two countries last month in Bucharest during the visit of Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan to Romania where he headed Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Romanian Economic Committee. Talks between the two sides focused on joint endeavours for exploring for oil in Jordan as well as efforts to expand the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) in Zarqa and Romania purchasing potatoes.

Deep-sea photo show to be held

AQABA (Petra) — A deep-sea photography competition is to be held here early in September, according to an announcement. It said that 50 divers of different nationalities will be taking part in the competition which is organised by the Tourism Authority in cooperation with the Egyptian consulate in Aqaba. Jordan and Egypt have lately signed a protocol on cooperation in tourism and Jordan has taken measures for promoting the tourism industry in the country.

Man sentenced for embezzling

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Ali Abdul Rahman Sa'di Hassan to three months imprisonment for embezzling public funds. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

Bulgarian education group due in August

AMMAN (Petra) — A Bulgarian educational delegation is due here on August 1 on a seven-day visit to Jordan. During the visit the delegation will discuss with Ministry of Education officials ways of bolstering existing cultural and educational relations between Jordan and Bulgaria.

Kanaan in London to discuss development aid

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan has left for London on a week-long visit to the United Kingdom for talks on prospective British aid to Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Dr. Kanaan will meet officials from the British Ministry of State for Overseas Development to explain all about Jordanian-sponsored development schemes in the occupied Arab territories.

Britain had earlier proposed providing £10 million for these schemes. He will also discuss projects to be financed through the British technical assistance programme to the Israeli-occupied Arab lands, Petra said.

It said that the minister will also discuss technical cooperation pertaining to Jordanian development plans.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in a speech delivered on his behalf in London last month, said that Jordan's new 1986-1990 five-year national development plan is designed to deal with economic realities and to boost Jordan's economy into a new phase of development to meet the challenges of the 1990s.

Photo shows highlight French archaeology, Damascus homes

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During the course of his official visit to Amman this week, French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond is scheduled to visit the French Cultural Centre. In honour of his visit the centre is staging two major exhibitions.

Emphasising the fact that the French centre in Amman is a regional centre, the exhibitions cover French activities not only in Jordan but in Syria and Iraq as well.



Interior of a grand old house in Damascus, taken by the French photographer, Philippe Terrance. His photographs are on display in Amman with the photo show on French archaeology in Iraq.

In the main exhibition hall, on loan from the French centre in Baghdad, is a comprehensive display of photographs, maps and drawings which document the work of the French archaeological delegation in Iraq since it was established exactly ten years ago.

The French have been involved with archaeological work in Iraq for much longer than ten years as the first panel of photographs shows. With charming old shots of such people as Thomas-Victor Place and Paul Botta, the history of French archaeology can be traced back as far as 1842.

In the last ten years, however, the French have intensified their research especially at Larsa, Tel El'Queili, Djebel Hamrin, Khirbet Diniye (in the Haradum/Harada area) and Khirbet Derak (in the Eski Mossul region). The most important site is Larsa, a huge tell situated in a desolate desert region in the south of the country.

Dating back to 4,000 B.C., the ruins at Larsa are dominated by the vast Neo-Babylonian temple of Shamash. In 1976 the team unearthed a veritable treasure trove — a large jar full of fragments of precious metals, particularly silver, which had been kept in small leather and hide bags, some of the seals on which date the find back to the Neo-Babylonian epoch.

Although none of the actual artifacts have come with the exhibition, the jar and many of the other spectacular finds from all the various sites are well illustrated making the exhibition absorbing to anyone interested in archaeology.

Completing the exhibition is a small section devoted to the archaeological work carried out by the French in Jordan. With panels taken from the recent spectacular exhibition in Paris "Le Voie Royale," this section documents the work done in Jerash, Khirbet Es Samra, Khirbet Edh Dharib, Tell Abu Hamid and Iraq Al Amir.

Old homes in Damascus

"La Maison Damascene" is the title of the second exhibition at the French centre this week.



The famous French archaeologist, Thomas-Victor Place, stands before the gate of an excavation he carried out in Khorsabad, in Iraq, in the last century. The photograph is one of an exhibition being held at the French Cultural Centre this week.

Comprising around 20 black and white photographs taken by young French photographer, Philippe Terrance, the exhibition is a personal view of some of the old houses of Damascus.

Catching them in cold, clear, winter light, these old buildings and interiors seem particularly vulnerable to their sagging timber ceilings, chipped plaster work, fraying carpets and crumbling antique furniture. Yet, despite the obvious wear and tear, these houses have maintained their charm, their character, their

feeling of continuity, aspects which Terrance has caught so well.

Devoid of any human presence, the photographs convey a sense of abandonment, of time suspended. Terrance cleverly juxtaposes old with new, the elaborately decorated with the austere, outside with inside, light with dark. The end results are intriguing compositions, full of fascinating touches that capture the very essence of these buildings and the way their inhabitants used them.

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Deeds are louder

LEST any one forget, it is Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin who has approved a controversial and illegal plan to tap a major new water supply at a site near the Arab city of Bethlehem despite strong opposition from Palestinians in the West Bank and a chorus of Arab and non-Arab countries from the four corners of the world. One can hardly ignore the fact that Rabin is a key member of the Israeli Labour Party which, through its present leader Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, has been most vociferous in its support for holding an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. What then may we conclude from these verbal protestations of support for the peace process in our region by the Israeli Labour Party when viewed and scrutinised against the deeds of the so-called party of peace in Israel? Are we not right in reaching the inevitable conclusion that the real signals emanating from Israel as a whole and from the Labour Party in particular make a mockery of their consent to the convening of an international peace conference?

The Israeli decision to pump some 18 million cubic metres of water from the occupied West Bank should serve notice to Arab policymakers that Israeli deeds speak louder than their words and that we should heed the real messages and signals coming our way from Israel rather than hear their pious words as we chart our course in the quest for the resolution of our national crises and conflicts with Israel.

The case in point on what we are saying here is the example of Egypt, which has strongly protested to the Israelis over their new and dangerous scheme in the West Bank, Egypt, we would like to think, carries some weight with Israel and their bilateral relations could very well serve as a litmus paper with regard to what we may expect in terms of Israeli-Arab relations in the future should there one day be peace in our region. If Egypt, with all its weight and leverage, cannot persuade Israel to reverse its decision to make the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank thirsty and their lands dry, then we are forced to conclude that pinning hopes on reaching peace with Israel is tantamount to building sand castles.

Over and above the legal construction of the latest Israeli decision as contrary to the 4th Geneva Convention, its real ramifications lie in the fact that it comes on the eve of the earnest preparations for holding the proposed international conference. In the wake of the so many statements made by Peres that he and his party are solidly for peace with the Arabs, we can only conclude that Israel is not serious about peace and its leaders would go to any length to sabotage all peace prospects.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: A lesson from the past

AS long as Jerusalem and the rest of the Palestinian land are under Israeli occupation the centenary anniversary of the battle of Hittin remains devoid of any meaning. It is true that the Muslims were able to drive out the Crusaders from the Arab land 800 years ago but the invaders are now occupying Arab land and victory still eludes us. Hittin battle is full of lessons and full of meaning and if we want to achieve success in our endeavours to liberate our land we ought to possess the will and the determination and self confidence of our steps and our plans. Of course history is full of instances in which nations blundered and faltered in their efforts in seeking freedom and many nations have been and still are surrounded by the enemy and have not yet succeeded in unifying their ranks in the face of challenges and threats. The Arab and Muslim nations, like the other nations of the world, ought to rise up and struggle for regaining lost and usurped lands and rights. The Arab and Muslim nations still remember Hittin battle 800 years after it took place and they will continue to remember the glory of victory over the enemy and the liberation of occupied land. From this anniversary, we draw hope, and we continue the struggle because this land is either ours or the enemy's and we either come out victorious or perish trying with all our might to liberate it from the invaders.

Al Dustour: Waldheim supports peace drive

WOUNDING up his official visit to Jordan President Kurt Waldheim of Austria expressed his full support for King Hussein's efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference. This fresh support for Jordan gains added importance, coming from a world renowned personality, well experienced in world politics through his service as secretary general of the United Nations that handled the Middle East question for so many years. The Austrian president has been careful to refer to the present divisions within the Israeli government as being the most serious element in aborting the convening of the proposed conference. The president who expressed hope that the conference will be eventually held for the sake of achieving a lasting peace in our area, has also voiced his deep impression about Jordan and described his visit as positive and successful. Dr. Waldheim said before leaving the Kingdom that his visit and talks with the Jordanian leaders were bound to pave the way for more fruitful cooperation between Jordan and Austria. For Jordan, the visit was a chance to express appreciation to the Austrian leader for his country's support of Arab just cause.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel steals water

THE water supply in the occupied West Bank region of Bethlehem is badly needed by the Arab population for drinking and irrigating their crops which are the main source of their sustenance. Therefore, Israel's plans for stealing that water means depriving the Arab inhabitants of their livelihood and exposing their lands to dry up. Destabilising and changing the balance of nature and ruining the economy of the West Bank means an act of sabotage against peace. The plan presents the world with a new Israeli crime being perpetrated secretly against the Arab people of Palestine to force them to abandon their homeland. Of course the Arabs and some other nations of the world will condemn such moves, but the Israelis will turn a deaf ear to any protest as it has been their habit over the years and whenever crimes have been committed against the Arabs. The Israelis helped by their American friends and through an American contracting firm will no doubt go ahead with plans to steal Arab water.

The Siniora tempest rages on

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

I WANTED very much to have a little chat with Mr. Hanna Siniora during my recent visit to Jerusalem in view of the controversy that he had stirred when he announced that he would seek a seat on the Jerusalem municipal council. But I was concerned that my visit to his office or house would be a subject of multi-colour speculation. The passing away of his father during my stay in Jerusalem provided the natural occasion to enter his threshold and seek clarification and elucidation of his maverick decision.

I found the man solemn, withdrawn and bewildered by the smears that marred his name and intentions. Also he was eager to talk as if he was also searching for an opportunity to explain to the suspecting world the true dimensions of his astonishing declaration to enter the Jerusalem municipal elections. There were very few people when I and a close friend from Jerusalem paid Mr. Siniora a visit at his home to express our condolences on the sad occasion of the passing away of his father. As on most such occasions in the Arab World, the mourning was mixed with little and big talks. For Mr. Siniora and his guests, his decision which perplexed and startled the Arab and non-Arab worlds dominated the discussions. Uppermost on my mind as a novice in journalism was to establish whether there was any truth to the proposition that Mr. Siniora's decision has a conspiratorial character or a premeditated and calculated master plan to throw a wrench in the on-going quest for peace in the Middle East. Having been victimised by a multitude of conspiracies since the days that they can remember, the Arabs have become accustomed to see a conspiracy in most actions whether individual or national and Mr. Siniora's move therefore did not escape the tarnish of being a suspect of some sort of conspiracy which was drafted and planned by outside "fingers."

The time allotted to condolence givers in normally short in order to make room for the incoming guests who seek seats and time also to express their sympathies. So I was rather direct and swift in my

inquisition and fast on the draw everytime I heard a remark that warranted an additional elucidation.

Likewise Mr. Siniora was swift and abrupt in dismissing all accusations that an "outside force" was behind his move and that he was simply manipulated by others. I had never talked to the man before and I was struck this time by the calmness of his style of conversation and the directness of his responses. First, he hastened to explain his decision was a spontaneous decision, yet, a calculated and deliberate move addressed first and foremost to the Israelis to awaken their conscience about the presence of so many Arabs in their midst. He painstakingly took time to confirm that neither the Arab nor the international audience was uppermost on his mind. It was the Israelis that he was aiming at and took his long shot at. He was dismayed, therefore, to find that his brethren, the Arabs, were the first to take precipitous actions to weaken his resolve and neutralise and frustrate his "master plan." Till that point in time I was silent, preferring to listen and learn rather than lecture or give pious sermons. Some of the audience were poking questions at Mr. Siniora which were for the most part irrelevant to the heart of the matter. Yet I found myself engrossed in the ensuing legal discussion on the effect of Mr. Siniora's decision to seek a seat on the Jerusalem municipal council on the Arab Jordanian sovereignty over east Jerusalem. As a lawyer by training, I was not swayed by the arguments offered mostly by non-professional that Mr. Siniora's decision to run for election in Jerusalem has a bearing on the sovereignty issue. Sovereignty, I explained, is a national act and not an individual initiative. Why then, I gaped, all this fire and fury over Arab sovereignty in Jerusalem being compromised by Mr. Siniora? No one has ever suggested that Mr. Siniora has a mandate from his constituency to speak on their behalf or make lasting and binding commitments for them. Sovereignty over eastern Jerusalem legally and politically still rests with Jordan and nothing can alter

that legal fact except a new legal framework freely negotiated and agreed upon between the legal parties to the conflict. At that juncture in the discussions, Mr. Siniora revealed that he was seeking the counsel and advice of the best international jurists from the four corners of the world in order to determine once and for all the legal relevancy of his decision to the sovereignty issue which troubled the Arab mind so feverishly.

As usual in all such events, the Israelis were the sole beneficiaries of the onslaught on Mr. Siniora and can now sigh with relief that, true to form, the Arab mind had accomplished for them what their true interests dictate. One Israeli commentator, I was told, was concerned that Arab participation in the municipal elections of Jerusalem can achieve for the Arabs what their collective armies had failed to accomplish. It was conceivable to most Israeli observers, that with 70,000 Arab residents in Jerusalem, Arab electors can ensure control over the direction of the Israeli Jerusalem elections. While listening to these briefings on the effectiveness of Arab participations in the elections of Jerusalem, it occurred to me to inquire about the percentage of the Arabs in Jerusalem who participate in the Jerusalem municipal elections already. Over 10 per cent of the Arab population, I was assured, are voters in Jerusalem. Did such participation by so many Arabs in the elections ever drew harsh comments which could match the treatment accorded to Mr. Siniora? No was the answers of all the listeners to the discussion. Then, how can we, I quizzed, deem a decision by one individual as treasonable yet the voting by some many thousands of our brethren in Jerusalem as tolerable? There was silence, a deadly silence in the midst of the small audience where all these exchanges were made. Yet during that silence I could not help but conclude to myself and by myself that only warped minds can condone the actions by thousands of the Arab citizens yet condemn the thoughts and decisions by one individual no matter where his alleged allegiance lies.

Occupied Arab territories' water supply drying up

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher
Jerusalem Post Reporter

JEWISH settlements in the West Bank supplied by Mekorot have exceeded their water quotas by as much as 36 per cent; the Gaza Strip's water aquifer is being dangerously depleted, and quotas there have been exceeded by Arab well-owners.

Meanwhile, approval of development plans for hundreds of West Bank Arab cities, towns and villages has been delayed for years, sparking disarray and irregularities in development and issuing of building permits.

These are some of the major findings in the State Comptroller's report on the activities of the West Bank and Gaza Strip's civil administration.

The report found that in fiscal 1985, the Jordan Valley's Jewish settlements overstepped their water quotas by 35.6 per cent, while settlements in the Jerusalem region overstepped their quotas by 44.8 per cent. Together, settlements in the two regions used over 36 million cubic metres of water compared with the 26.6 million cubic-metre allotment to them.

The water company, Mekorot, which supplies the water needs of the Jewish settlements, exceeded its pumping quota in the Jordan Valley by about 20 per cent — taking out some 260,000 cubic metres of water above its annual

700,000 limit in 1985-86.

This occurred despite water authority recommendations to reduce consumption so as to avert the danger of salinating local water supplies. The comptroller found that the civil administration did not oversee Mekorot's activities sufficiently.

Over-pumping poses an even graver problem to the long-term viability of the Gaza Strip's water aquifer, which currently supplies all of the area's water needs.

Annual agricultural and residential consumption outstripped natural replenishment of the aquifer by a rate of 50 per cent. While water consumption amounted to 91 million cubic metres in 1985, the Gaza aquifer replenishes itself at a rate of only 60 million cubic metres a year.

If the excessive pumping continues, the report warns, the entire Gaza aquifer may be rendered "useless," and the burden of supplying Gaza's water needs will fall on the rest of the country.

The best long-term solution, the comptroller suggests, may be the pumping of some water from Israel proper to the Gaza Strip, along with replacement of leaky pipes, new desalination projects and stepped-up water conservation.

Quotas on Gaza agricultural water consumption are not tightly maintained by authorities, the comptroller notes. In fiscal 1985, the owners of 313 of the Gaza Strip's 2,072 wells exceeded their water allocations, by a total of 2.6 million cubic metres — or 18 per cent. They were charged small fines for this.

Other findings on the water and sewage issue include:

— West Bank Arabs pay significantly more for their water than do Jewish settlers, whose water bills are subsidised by the World Zionist Organisation;

— West Bank drinking water was found to be substandard in 10 per cent of the tests carried out by the Ministry of Health in fiscal 1985;

— By April 15, 1986 water debts in various West Bank towns and settlements amounted to \$648,780. Most of the debt was accrued by Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem.

— Mekorot seized several dunams of land in Nablus region in 1986, drilled for water in the Jerusalem hills and laid water pipes for a Jewish settlement without receiving proper approval or compensating local Arab land owners.

— In most Gaza Strip and West Bank towns, sewage is still not being processed. The sewage problem represents a pollution time bomb for wadis and underground aquifers in the area, the comptroller warns.

"If a solution is not expedited... the problem will cause greater damage, and the financial investment required will be much greater than it would be today," it says in the report.

Large quantities of raw sewage flowed from Jerusalem and Al Bireh neighbourhoods to Wadi Kelt and sewage from Ramallah has over-flowed into a nearby army camp, the comptroller notes, citing instances of resulting pollution.

A "particularly critical" sewage problem exists in the area covering Nablus, Al Bireh, Jericho, Bethlehem, Beit Jallah, Beit Sahur, Hebron and the refugee camps. And completion of waste disposal systems in the large cities of that region will cost an estimated \$10 million, the comptroller says.

Although in a number of West Bank towns, planning for sewage systems has begun, they have still not been implemented. Implementation of these plans for Gaza, prepared by the civil administration, is estimated to cost \$16.3m.

On the matter of water prices, the report notes that Jewish settlers pay Mekorot only 15-23 agorot per cubic metre for water, the lower rate being for agricultural supplies. Arab consumers, meanwhile, pay the civil administration a whopping 70 agorot per cubic metre for Mekorot-supplied water, and do not receive a lower rate for agricultural purposes. Arab local authorities supplying water to consumers charge even higher rates — NIS 1-1.60 per cubic metre.

Water loss from old and leaky pipes is one of the main factors contributing to the \$648,000 water debt on the West Bank, the comptroller says. But the problem of water loss is not restricted to Arab towns, noting "inexplicable" water losses of 41 to 44 per cent in 1983 and 1984 in two Jewish settlements.

In the Gaza Strip, some local authorities lost anywhere between 20 to 49 per cent of the water supplied to them through

leaky pipes.

Building, planning and real estate activities also came under close scrutiny by the comptroller.

West Bank village mukhtars demanded exorbitant fees — sometimes \$1,000 or more — for permits they issued on behalf of the civil administration in real estate deals. The comptroller also cites irregularities in the administration and financing in the West Bank of the "village leagues" set up by the civil administration.

Even more striking, according to the comptroller, is the total absence of a clear West Bank policy governing development and building. This has led to confusion and delays in the approval of up-to-date municipal and regional plans.

The report notes that no plans exist for five out of 25 West Bank cities sampled. The other 20 towns and cities have plans from the 1950s and 1960s. Hebron's dates as far back as 1944.

Currently, four regional plans, 183 village plans, and 20 town and city plans are either completed or are in the process of being drawn up. However, their approval has been delayed for up to four years, and some of the plans are already out of date.

"A clear planning policy does not exist in anything concerning area plans, the issue of Jewish and Arab-settlement expansion, building in villages or agricultural areas, population increases, and the provision of services," the comptroller states.

The lack of clarity in planning policy means that building permits are issued for widely varying

reasons of judgment, rather than in line with clear standards.

Building permits in Arab villages are often approved on the basis of plans that have not yet been formally reviewed or approved, or on the basis of outdated plans from the Mandate period.

In Jewish settlements the situation is somewhat better: Plans have been approved for some 60 settlements and those for another 130 are under formal review. But these plans also are marked by an absence of "unified guidelines," the comptroller finds.

The comptroller also complains about the civil administration's insufficient supervision of the building permit process in Arab villages and municipalities.

Claims to some 70 per cent of land in West Bank villages have not been formally registered, the report notes. At the same time, building permits are often issued without verifying ownership titles.

The comptroller cites instances in which municipal planning councils issued building permits contrary to the law. The civil administration, in a response to this criticism, says that warnings have been issued, adding that in one case a mayor was brought to court and removed from his duties in a town where violations occurred.

The civil administration's planning office also suffers from a lack of coordination, according to the comptroller. Local engineers and surveyors often work illegally for private firms, creating a conflict of interest.

Denktash learns to read his enemy

Larry Klingner recently met Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, in northern Nicosia, and describes the feelings of the softly-spoken man whose words, nevertheless, have an edge...

FOR Mr. Rauf Denktash, the 63-year-old veteran leader of the Turkish Cypriots and long-time political duellist with Archbishop Makarios, the late Cypriot president, the Turkish mainland troops stationed in the north of the island since their 1974 invasion are the real peacekeepers.

Without them, Mr. Denktash and the majority of his 150,000 compatriots, who elected him president of the unilaterally-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, are convinced that they would by now either have been killed or forced to leave an island nation dominated by the Greek mainland. Indeed, whatever the cost of the invasion, the effective partitioning of the island has meant at least that inter-communal murder has been stopped for the past 13 years.

I met Mr. Denktash at the beautiful former residence of the British colonial Nicosia district commissioner, which now serves as his presidential palace, a far cry from the small southwestern village of Ktima where he was born.

He speaks with the precision one would expect from his law training at Lincoln's Inn, London, mixed with a softness nurtured alongside his longstanding image as a man-of-the-people, keen gardener, photographer and cook. But his words never lack the edge which portrays what he views as the unrelenting injustice handed out to his people over past decades by Greek Cypriots bent on the island's full unification as part of the Greek nation.

Mr. Denktash is criticised, even among Turkish-Cypriot politicians, for his consistently unyielding language towards leaders on "the other side." Close colleagues however, maintain that it is unreasonable to think that he should temper remarks based on years of indignity suffered at the hands of Greek-Cypriot ministers and a life-long struggle which has brought him close to death on more than one occasion.

True, being a leader in Cyprus is not entirely conducive to prolonged relaxation. In addition to the more than 25,000 Greek mainland troops estimated to be in the north, there are about 2,000 Greek mainland troops thought to be in the south, tens of thousands of young Turkish and Greek Cypriots in local armies, supported by reserves which could double their strengths within 24 hours, probably more than 5,000 troops on Britain's sovereign bases and 2,400 United Nations soldiers supposedly separating the lot.

The most contentious of these forces are the Turkish mainlanders, who invaded at Mr. Denktash's request under Turkey's guarantor powers, subsequently occupied more than a third of the island to protect about a fifth of the population and whose presence has since been twice condemned by the U.N. and may well be again if the Greek Cypriots press their case in New York later this year. As yet, Mr. Denktash's state is recognised only by Turkey.

"The judge said: 'Isn't this a good thing. As you talk about the constitution, land and other matters, you also talk about a programme of withdrawal of the troops, not only Turks but Greeks... and you prepare a timetable. As that moment we have a transitional government set up, jointly.'"

"We said, alright, this is fair. The Greek Cypriots said, alright, this is fair, until the moment when (the premier of Greece) Mr. Papandreu said, 'don't be silly, don't sign it.' So, what else can we do? Can we afford to send the Turkish troops away while these people are the government of Cyprus? Telling us that Cyprus is Greek and they will make it Greek? It's impossible. So when they insist that Turkish troops must be out first, it is because they don't want a settlement. They prefer the status quo."

Moreover, he said, international conditions militated for retention of the status quo: the U.S. government was hostage to its Greek lobby; Britain was hostage to Greek Cyprus in wanting to maintain its bases there; Greece had no interest in an agreement because lack of one provided a political weapon in its dispute with Turkey in the Aegean; the Soviet Union sought to prolong the dispute to disrupt the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

I put it to Mr. Denktash that there are increasingly-voiced suspicions that he and Turkey might also prefer the status quo: the consolidation of a non-Greek state along the Turkish coast with a new deep-water harbour, a new military airport and a local economy which is slowly improving.

"You must accept that, sincerely, we want a settlement on this problem, and we feel sincerely that it can be settled if the Greek Cypriots abandon the idea that they are the government of the whole of Cyprus," he replied.

— Financial Times feature.

Candidates, media lurch into post-Hart era

By Jonathan Wolman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — He said it went "beyond the bounds of responsible journalism," and griped, "we're all running for president, not sainthood." But when senator Paul Simon received his character questionnaire he reluctantly agreed to terms.

He agreed to waive his right to privacy and allow the New York Times to peruse his raw FBI and CIA files.

The Illinois Democrat agreed to supply his birth certificates, his marriage license and his school records. A list of his closest friends since high school. A copy of his medical records. And more, much more.

The Times questionnaire represents a brief, tentative step into the post-Gary Hart era of political integrity — an uncomfortable period in which politicians and the news media are trying to determine what's relevant about a presidential candidate's character and private life. how to report it and how to make it public.

Simon wasn't alone in agreeing to the Times' request. Another contender for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, former Arizona governor Bruce Babbitt, concluded, "the public's right to know outweighs a candidate's right to privacy."

Democratic congressman Richard Gephardt of Missouri apparently was willing to go along.

Nonetheless, the paper's wholesale request brought white-

ties of disbelief from several of the candidates, and the Times had second thoughts. On June 19, Times editor Max Frankel wrote a memo to his staff saying, "in this valid pursuit, we have put some questions to candidates that reach a bit too far."

The Times is not alone in wrestling with the dilemma. Media handling of the George Bush rumours (called a "tempest in a cesspool" by one supporter in tow) provides another example.

For a week, political reporters were hearing accounts of an alleged affair between Bush and a woman, not his wife. Depending on the source, the details varied. It wasn't clear if anything a out the rumours would merit a news story, even if the gossip was true.

However, runaway whispering eventually prompted the Bush campaign to provide denials, published in two new magazines. The AP and other news organisations then wrote stories quoting what George Bush Jr. told Newsweek: "The answer to the question is N.O."

Is this sort of thing really necessary? In the wake of the Gary Hart-Donna episode, it isn't clear where to draw the line.

But there's no turning back the clock. In Frankel's words: "In the nuclear age, when we entrust our presidents with instantaneous powers of life and death, we think we have a duty to report on the essential character and history of every contender for the office."

"As regards their fitness for the office and trustworthiness, they have no 'right' of privacy. Their

lives, their personalities, their finances, their families, friends and values are all fair game for their reporting."

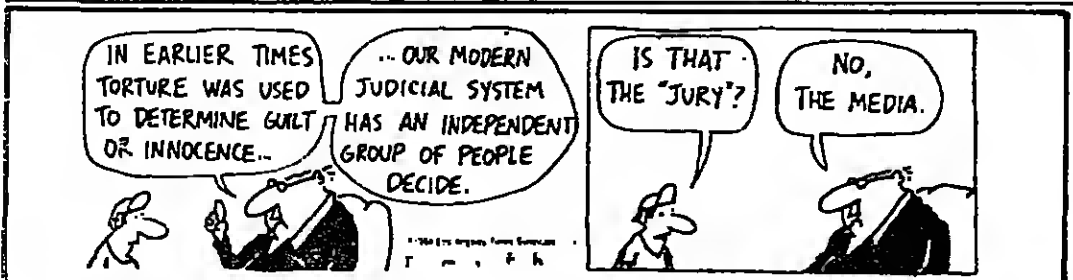
It was an eloquent statement of purpose, but how do you get there from here? Frankel wasn't defending the Times questionnaire, he was scaling it back.

"We will not, in fact, seek raw FBI files that indiscriminately record malicious and unsubstantiated gossip, or similar CIA files," Frankel said in the memo, knowing full well that many files often carry more fiction than fact. Nor, Frankel said, will the Times seek medical records that "do not bear on a person's fitness for the presidency."

His memo quelled the criticism. Patricia O'Brien, a respected reporter who recently went to work for Michael Dukakis, had said the Massachusetts governor wouldn't go along with the Times request, describing the request for access to FBI files as "beyond the threshold of professional journalism."

Babbitt, even in acquiescing, said: "The question is, if I ostentatiously sign away my rights and say 'have at it,' what about the poor guy who has been a boy scout all his life that refuses? What kind of inferences are left to be drawn? That's precisely the dilemma."

Simon, speaking to reporters several weeks ago in Great Neck, New York, said, "I wrote to the New York Times and said I was complying, but I think they're going beyond the bounds of what is responsible."



هكذا من الإعلام

How does the human computer work? — Part 1

By Dr. Kevan Martin

The writer is a researcher at the U.K. Medical Research Council Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit, Department of Pharmacology, Oxford University. The second part of this essay appears in tomorrow's issue of the Jordan Times.

THE human brain is a triumph of miniaturisation, the most remarkable computer in the world. Yet its nerve cells process only 100 or so instructions per second in contrast to the half-a-million that a microcomputer may handle. This makes the speed at which we perform very complex operations all the more astonishing. One of the most complicated tasks we are capable of is visual perception, which goes on in the cerebral cortex. Scientists are now steadily gaining information about how the cortical "microchip" works. Technically formidable operations such as injecting a recognisable "label" into single nerve cells through a glass tube only one-half a micrometre in diameter are producing detailed information that is extremely valuable, not only in understanding our visual process but in building the parallel processing systems that so-called fifth generation computers will use.

Computers are now part of our daily lives. We see them at work in shops at the checkout till, they dispense money to us outside banks, they produce our utility bills and they are coming to replace typewriters for tasks such as writing this article. They tackle complex arithmetic with an accuracy and speed that no ordinary human can hope to match. The rate at which they have proliferated to occupy almost every niche of our existence, in the home and workplace, is a tribute to their flexibility of operation. The silicon "chip" which is the basis of modern computers has

indeed produced a revolution in the 30 years of its existence.

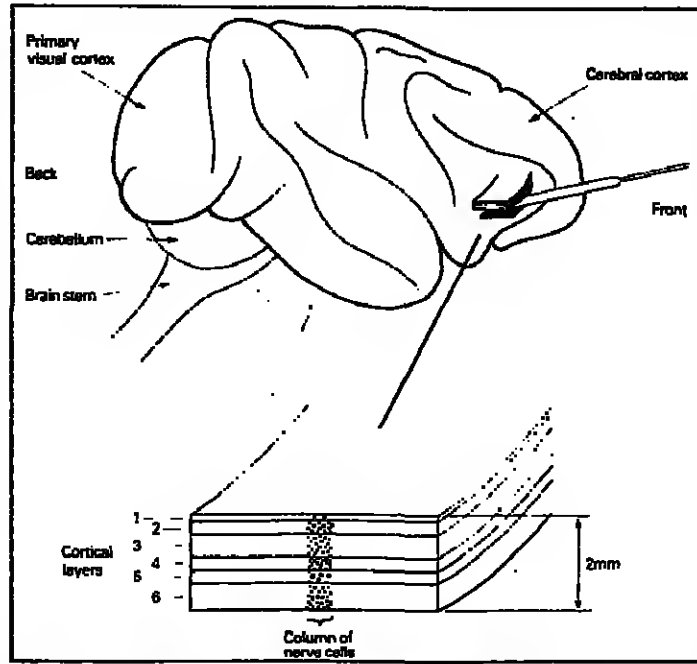
In our admiration for the electronic marvel we perhaps forget that the most powerful computers in the world are not built of silicon, but are carbon-based. Each of us, in fact, owns one of these computers; they come built-in at birth and operate unceasingly, often for well over 70 years. It is, of course, the human brain.

Unlike the silicon chip, our brain has evolved over millions of years and, because it is always with us, we often forget how powerful it really is. It is only recently that attempts to simulate human behaviour using computers have revealed how difficult many of the tasks are that we perform with ease. The speed at which we can carry out very complex operations is all the more astonishing when we consider that a microcomputer can process about half-a-million instructions per second, against 100 per second or fewer for the average nerve cell.

Processing visual information

One of the most complex tasks we perform is that of visual perception, and this has been a major area of investigations over the last 25 years. We now know that the main processing of visual information goes on within an area of brain called the cerebral cortex. In primates, including humans, the cerebral cortex is so well developed that it covers the rest of the brain, and with its connections, forms over 80 per cent of the brain's volume.

The cortex consists of a sheet of nerve cells 2 mm thick and about one-seventh of a square metre in area. It forms a deal of the grey matter of the brain, and the nerve fibres that connect different areas of the brain form the white matter. In humans the cortical sheet has to be folded many times to fit inside the skull,



The brain of a monkey seen from the side. Its cerebral cortex covers all the other regions apart from portions of the cerebellum and the brain stem. Much of the cortex lies buried in deep folds. If a piece of cortex is dissected away from the underlying fibre connections, its laminated structure can be clearly seen. The width of a column of cells with similar functional properties varies from about 0.85 to 0.5 mm, depending on the property.

This produces the very convoluted surface of the human brain.

The design of the brain is a triumph of miniaturisation; no present-day computer even approaches the computing power contained within its 1.5-litre volume.

The primary visual processing areas of the cerebral cortex lie at the back of the brain, but the positions of the many other visual areas that undoubtedly exist in humans have yet to be found. In other primates, such as monkeys, these other visual areas have been mapped and it turns out that about 40 to 50 per cent of their cerebral cortex carries out visual processing. That so much of the brain is occupied with visual processing is perhaps not surprising, when we consider how much we

depend on our eyes for normal living.

The first stage in visual processing takes place in the eye, where the retinal receptors sample the visual world and transmit the information to the visual cortex via an intermediate structure called the thalamus. Each receptor in the retina "looks" at a small piece of the visual world and signals changes in contrast, such as the difference between the black letters and the white page of this article. In many vertebrates, including ourselves, the retina contains a mix of receptors, all of which are selectively responsive to light of a different wavelength. The information they provide is used for the interpretation of colour. While almost any visual stimu-

lus activates the retinal receptors, the nerve cells in the cortex are much more selective in their responses. Intensive study by the Nobel-prizewinning scientists Professor David Hubel and Professor Torsten Wiesel of Harvard Medical School showed that most of the cells are selective for the orientation, shape, size and direction of movement of the visual stimulus. Cells with similar preferences are grouped together in columns extending through the full thickness of the cortex. Clearly this sort of functional organisation must reflect an underlying organisation of the cortical circuitry. However, analysis at this level is unable to tell us very much about how the cortex is put together and programmed, any more than we can understand a computer by exploring its word-processing capacities. Nevertheless, in the same way that the circuitry and logic of the computer determines its capabilities, so our understanding of how the visual cortex performs its tasks depends on how much we can find out about the contents of the cortical "black box." Several groups, including ourselves, have begun long-term programmes of research to find out the structural basis of cortical function.

One of the main problems we face is the sheer number of components involved. Each square millimetre of cortex covers about 100,000 nerve cells. In primates, the primary visual cortex alone probably contains about 320 million nerve cells. As if this is not enough, there are many different types of nerve cells and the cortex is further divided into six basic layers containing different densities of these types. Nevertheless, there appears to be one important simplifying principle in the design of the cortex: It is a modular system. This means that, at least at its most basic level,

particular structural patterns are repeated again and again, in effect adding together more of the same kind of "microchip." From the massive expansion of the cerebral hemispheres seen in the fossil record, we surmise that the design of the cortical microchip was successful, efficient, and flexible enough to accommodate the new processing tasks that arose during our evolutionary history.

Our task, then, is to discover what the structure of the cortical microchip is, and how it works. The way we do this involves a combination of many different techniques, all of which press against the limits of our present expertise. There are two strategies that we are using to find out how the nerve cells interconnect to form the circuits they do. The first is to watch how they form, unit by unit, by studying the development of the nerve connections during early life. The second strategy is to take the complete adult circuit, select one element, for example a single nerve cell, and find out its position in the circuit and what it does.

The experimental work involved in both these strategies is similar. The activity of a single nerve cell in the visual cortex of an animal is recorded, using a glass tube of microscopic dimensions filled with a salt solution containing the enzyme peroxidase, which is made from horseradish. After the physiological properties of the cell have been recorded, the enzyme is injected into the cell, which it fills entirely. The size of the cell body is about 20 µm and the diameter of the glass tube is about 0.5 µm, so the operation of injecting a single cell is technically formidable. Nevertheless, the effort has produced detailed information about the connections made by single cells, which could not be obtained in any other way — Spectrum.

Honour still eludes 'world's worst poet' in his home town

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

DUNDEE, Scotland — Scotland does its poets proud, and no town is without its statue to Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott or Robert Louis Stevenson. But mention the great McGonagall in his home town and reactions range from a fond chuckle to pained silence. To connoisseurs of ghastly verse, William McGonagall is a national treasure, proclaimed by the Times of London as "a real genius, for he is the only memorable truly bad poet in our language."

A century after his heyday, McGonagall's tortured rhymes and fractured meters have earned him a cult following that ranges from Boise, Idaho, to Manchuria. The British royal family is among his devotees, and in the ultimate accolade, the Oxford Companion to English Literature mentions him as "the world's worst poet."

Dundee, McGonagall's home town on Scotland's east coast, is divided between those who want

to give him the full commemorative treatment and those who fervently wish the muse of poetry had gone someplace else to deliver her most celebrated misfit.

City hall has blocked attempts by McGonagall fans to honour him with a statue, allowing only the modest gesture of a plaque on a park bench near the Burns statue.

Some Dundonians would say even that is too much for the man who produced this leaden ode to an iceberg.

"And the stranger in amazement stands aghast

As he beholds the water flowing off the melted ice

Adown the mountain sides; that he cries out, oh, how nice."

Or this gaudy lament at the collapse of Dundee's Tay bridge under a train:

"Beautiful railway bridge of the silvery Tay,

Alas, I am very sorry to say That ninety lives have been taken away on the last Sabbath day of 1879.

Which will be remembered for a very long time."

Says David Tennant, a Dundee municipality spokesman, "there's a love-hate relationship between McGonagall and Dundee. I suppose it's a case of a poet not being recognised on his own native heath."

Jim MacKie, manager of the David Winter publishing house in Dundee, which printed McGonagall's first poems and still puts out best-selling McGonagall anthologies, says: "I suppose Dundonians don't want to be associated with someone who's famous for doing something so badly."

While Smith, who recently retired as manager of David Winter, insists McGonagall was a genius.

"Here was a man with just 18 months of schooling who could recite Shakespeare and who wrote 576 poems, all of which are published. His anthologies have sold half a million copies. That's more than Robbie Burns. So who judges genius? Who judges Pegasus? Who's to judge McGonagall?"

Rare is the poet, however great, who never drops the occasional dinker. But equally rare is the poet of McGonagall's stature, whose poems, without exception, were "of a magical dreadfulness that reached the sublime," as the late Scottish commentator James Cameron wrote.

From McGonagall's brief autobiography, one learns that he was born in 1825 or 1830, worked as a jute weaver and developed a passion for Shakespeare.

Taking to the stage, his stentorian voice and shoulder-length hair quickly singled him out as a crowd-drawing eccentric.

Playing MacBeth, he once got so carried away that he refused to fall down dead. "Lay down, McGonagall, lay down," hissed the hapless MacDuff.

He could not believe the audiences came for the laughs, not the drama, and wrote of his puzzlement at people who would waylay him outside the stage door and pull his hat over his eyes.

Only in his 40s did he take up poetry, describing in his autobiography how one day, sitting lonely in his room and wishing he

could afford a vacation, he suddenly imagined he heard a voice crying, "write, write."

His first ode went on sale at a penny a sheet, printed up on leaflets free of charge by David Winter. Reviewers reacted to the new bard with polite amusement which the puny McGonagall mistook for praise, assuming the title of "William McGonagall, poet and tragedian."

He sent a selection of his verse to Queen Victoria. The palace's formula acknowledgement emboldened him to assume the even more impressive title of "William McGonagall, poet and tragedian, by appointment to her majesty." He even walked through a mistmorn to her Scottish castle hoping to give a recital, but was threatened by the gatekeeper with arrest.

Nothing discouraged him. No battle, disaster, celebrity death, or royal event escaped the McGonagall treatment. Every town he visited inspired an ode.

His wife and children went hungry and faced eviction from their cottage while Dundee, a hard-drinking, ruffianish sort of town, turned McGonagall-baiting into a sport.

He was pelted with peas, pines and rotten hams, shouted down by hecklers, mocked by street urchins as "mad McGonagall," and hounded by magistrates for causing the unruliness.

A barman, incensed at McGonagall for having the nerve to recite teetotaling propaganda in his pub, stuffed a wet towel in his

mouth.

Soon he was refusing to perform unless a clergyman sat on the stage.

In 1887, fed up with these riotous spectacles, Dundee's elders bought McGonagall a one-way ticket to New York. But he soon returned, unmimicked except by the skyscrapers.

"They were the only thing that seemed to arrest my eye

Because many of them are thirteen stories high."

Failing health, poverty, and ridicule eventually overcame him, and in 1894 he moved to Perth, where he died in 1902 and was buried in an unmarked pauper's grave.

But his fame began to spread. The actor Alec Guinness showed interest in his Shakespearean roles. Playwright Noel Coward adapted a McGonagall poem to song. Actor Peter Sellers popularised him on radio.

Smith, at 71 a tireless promoter of the great McGonagall, says McGonagall societies exist in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Seattle, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Boise, Idaho, as well as Toronto, Halifax and Vancouver in Canada.

"Yet here in Dundee," he says, "they won't put up a statue to him. It's a great shame."

Smith has visited Japan at the invitation of the local McGonagall Society, and in Manchuria he discovered McGonagall poems translated into Chinese.

"The students told me he translates very well."

Desert sands march into the Sahel

Mark Newman travelled recently through central Africa's Sahel region and reports on the area's most pressing problem: creeping desertification.

OURS is not a desert town yet. But the tide of sand sweeping down from the Sahara threatens to engulf this remote northern outpost of Burkina Faso unless urgent action is taken.

Already, vivid ochre-coloured dunes have swamped vast areas of fertile pasture which, until the early 1960s, supported extensive cattle herds and gave the farmers of Oursi twice as much grain each year as the town needed. Oursi was once a granary of the Sahel — the fragile strip of transition between the Sahara and the African savannah — but is now a net grain importer.

To compound the problem, the dunes have blocked the inlets to Oursi's lake. All that is now left of an 8 km reservoir where a fishing industry once thrived is a muddy strip where goats and donkeys paw the ground in a futile search for the water the town once took for granted. This is the tragedy of the creeping desertification overtaking the Sahel at a rate estimated at somewhere between 16 km and 40 km a year.

Oursi's elders blame climatic change. Government officials think they know better. Research has shown that desertification in the Sahel is caused primarily by the booming population overgrazing and over-cultivating the land. Deforestation leads to soil erosion and, as the soil is blown or washed away, the desert gradually takes hold.

Reafforestation on a massive scale is needed, but it is no simple task. The governments and research organisations involved are far from understanding the nature and extent of the problem. There are no reliable figures on the rate of desertification of the

Sahel, and no data on how fast the Sahel is losing its natural vegetation.

Even the Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, a grouping of the 10 countries from Cape Verde in the west to Chad in the east — has yet to piece the jigsaw together. According to Burkina Faso's committee co-ordinator, Mr. Andre Roch-Compaore, the organisation simply does not have the resources to set up monitoring stations to track the desert's spread.

"We have to rely on sporadic reports from the affected regions, but even these represent only part of the problem, since the process of desertification also starts from within the Sahel. It is not just the Sahara's fringe expansion that we have to take into account."

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has produced some figures on the problem but even these are given only guideline status by the drought control committee. In the case of Niger and Burkina Faso, the FAO estimates that

each country lost about 60,000 hectares of natural vegetation a year between 1980 and 1985 while, in 1985, Burkina Faso had 22,000 hectares of reforestation projects under way and Niger had 14,000 hectares.

In Niger, most of the replanting is being carried out within 100 km of Niger's capital, Niamey, but as fuelwood plantations to feed Niamey's insatiable and growing demand for firewood and not as a green barrier against the Sahara's southward spread. Furthermore, the species being planted — largely the fast-growing eucalyptus — is widely regarded by forestry experts as largely detrimental to the fragile soils of the region. The species returns little of the nutrients it uses in its growth and after a few seasons of harvesting, the soil can be left more barren than it was before planting.

In Burkina Faso, the country's environmental advisers have at least recognised this problem, largely through the bitter experience of a failed 2,000ha eucalyptus experiment near Oursi. In a newly-created reforestation project being funded by the U.N. Development Programme and by West Germany, 15 areas in three

of the country's most threatened regions are to be the subjects of projects incorporating the planting of 400ha areas of naturally-occurring tree species and comprehensive programmes designed to demarcate specific areas for cropping, grazing and urban development, and make the population aware of the dangers of overstepping the supportive capabilities of the land.

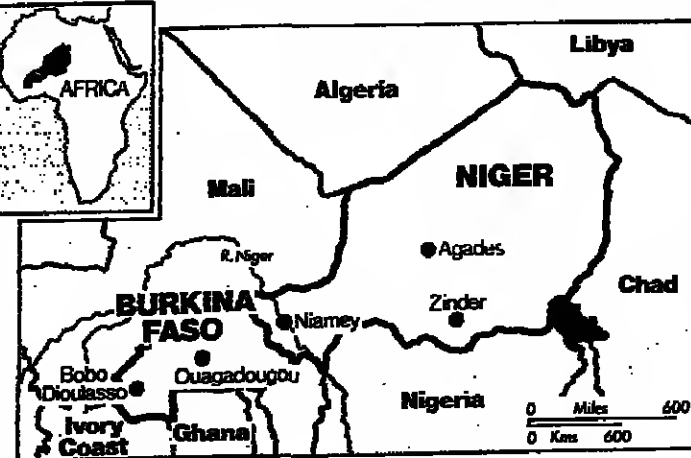
The government has also introduced a state-run wood supply agency in an effort to outlaw the anarchic practices of the cowboy woodcutters.

But it is not just indiscriminate tree-felling which is worrying authorities. Farmers are pushing further and further towards the extreme limits of the Sahel's potentially fertile land in an effort to feed themselves. One organisation now experimenting on a 500ha research farm in Niger believes it has the answer to the problem.

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics says lack of soil fertility, especially the lack of phosphate in the soil, is a greater problem for agriculture in the Sahel than lack of moisture. Even in the driest regions, the crop yield could be doubled or trebled if farmers added phosphate fertilisers and farming efficiencies could be increased by 75 per cent.

The research institute was partly responsible for the green revolution in India but "the Sahel should not expect a similar miracle," says the organisation's executive director, Mr. Ron Gibbons. India simply had better resources than the Sahel, the suggested techniques were applied with great vigour and the country's scientific establishment went to great lengths to see that research data was distributed.

—Financial Times news feature.



Randa Habib's
Corner

Going in circles

SUMMER is here, the schools are closed, so where do our children go?

Sadly, to the streets. Wherever you go, especially in the afternoon, you find children playing football, racket tennis, or hide and seek in the streets. Driving through those streets often means disturbing their games and somehow one feels ashamed to do so. The fact is they often have nowhere else to play and nothing else to do.

Our parks are limited, and often situated at the wrong places: The edge of a hill or very close to highways. People, especially children, need open air grounds, but unfortunately despite all our ambitious projects no proper park has yet been built. Sometimes I think that we behave like the Romans. Remember how they used to eat and eat and then force themselves to vomit in order to be able to eat again. Or how they used to destroy things just for the pleasure of rebuilding them again. We did a bit of the same by spending so much money on circles that we are now chopping down while at the same time building others.

Instead of using the huge amount of money that was spent on the Second Circle to establish a proper park — with waterfalls, as waterfalls seem so popular — we spent it on a circle that on turn will eventually disappear. The result is that our children are either in the streets or playing in the middle of the Second Circle, in both cases with the risk of getting hit by a speeding car that in turn is being used as a play toy by our older children, who also have no place to go for leisure or play.

Hollywood cuts lovemaking in response to AIDS

By Ronald Clarke
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Actor Tom Hanks reaches for a box of condoms as he is about to take a lady to bed in the forthcoming film "Dragnet."

He discovers the box is empty — and promptly calls off the lovemaking.

AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, has started changing Hollywood scripts as well as Hollywood lives.

The scene involving Hanks, part of a comedy film version of the old "Dragnet" television detective series, is part of Hollywood's move to preach to film audiences that sex with numerous partners, particularly without taking precautions, can be lethal in the AIDS age.

In the latest James Bond film, "The Living Daylights" Welsh actor Timothy Dalton, making his debut as agent 007, confines himself to just one girlfriend, actress Maryam D'Abo.

Bond used to share his talents with at least three women in a film.

"Indiscriminate sex is out," Bond scriptwriter Richard Maibaum said. "It is just the sensible and responsible thing to do in reflecting the world round us."

AIDS has hit hard in Hollywood where there are few actors who do not know of people who have died of the disease. Stars, led by Elizabeth Taylor, have taken part in numerous drives to raise millions of dollars for medical research into AIDS.

The death of Rock Hudson in AIDS in October, 1985, brought home the impact of the disease to Hollywood. The increasing number of obituaries of young actors and studio officials being published in one of the industry newspapers, Variety, have deepened the sense of tragedy.

"We are losing not only friends, but also some of the great creative minds and some of the coming creative minds," actress Colleen Dewhurst said.

"Hudson's revelation that he had AIDS brought home the personal threat to everyone," said Tina Sinatra, daughter of Frank Sinatra and an organiser of a group called the entertainment industry support committee for

AIDS project Los Angeles.

"Now you have a group of some of the most accepted people in the world," she said.

Burt Reynolds, who once felt impelled to go on a television show to bitterly deny he had AIDS, Sammy Davis Jr., Shirley MacLaine and Burt Lancaster have played leading roles in making the public aware of the dangers.

The chief story editor of a major studio said he believed more and more films during the coming months would concentrate on single relationships.

"Instead of having affairs and getting back together afterwards, a couple in a film will work out its problems without at least one of the partners jumping into bed with someone else," he said.

The screen actors guild has said its 58,000 members must be given the right to refuse to take part in open-mouth kissing scenes if they fear this could give them AIDS.

But MacLaine, despite her fund-raising activities for AIDS research, believes screen kissing is safe.

"Actors know how to act love scenes," she said. "We don't do deep kissing in live scenes. If any actor did that to me — I'd slap him."

The safe sex campaign has reached even the pornographic film industry. A major distributor of pornographic films includes with each of its videocassettes a reminder that the film is intended to be a sexual fantasy and that viewers should consult their doctors before engaging in such sex.

Other pornographic films have shown the use of condoms in scenes. But some pornographic film producers believe nothing ruins an orgy scene more completely than someone passing out condoms.

"It's not what America wants to see," a producer said. "Pornographic film audiences want to see the actors taking chances."

The one-billion-dollar-a-year pornographic film industry could benefit from the AIDS scare. Some film renters are staying home watching pornographic videocassettes rather than having sex with strangers, the producer said.

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Cash foils Lendl's claim for Wimbledon title

WIMBLEDON, England (Agencies) — Pat Cash's rocket serves and rifled volleys shot down Ivan Lendl's dream of a Wimbledon championship Sunday, with the brash Australian beating the world's top-ranked player 7-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Cash's victory, a triumph for the traditional grasscourt virtues of solid serving, superb volleying and quicksilver footwork, made him the first Australian since John Newcombe in 1971 to win tennis's oldest and most treasured prize, worth on this occasion \$155,000 (\$220,000).

In his moment of glory, the 22-year-old Australian disregarded protocol and clambered through the crowd to embrace his family and friends before returning to the court for the presenta-

tion of the trophy. That win by Newcombe had marked the 13th time in 16 Wimbledon that Australia had provided the men's champion. In the intervening years the nearest an Australian came to winning was in the 1974 final when Ken Rosewall suffered a terrible drubbing at the hands of Jimmy Connors.

Sunday was a green-and-gold Australian day in every sense. Wimbledon's famous grass court was bathed in brilliant sunshine

and the darting Cash tore Lendl apart with a thrilling all-court performance.

It was impossible not to feel a pang of disappointment for the second-seeded Czechoslovak, so desperately wanting to add Wimbledon to his French and U.S. Open titles, but there was no doubting the validity of Cash's triumph.

Carried forward by the momentum of his first-set success, Cash swept through the second set 6-2 in just 38 minutes.

While Lendl missed time and again with his first serve, Cash kept up his magnificent form, varying his pace and swinging the ball wide to deny the second seed a solid base from which to strike his damaging groundstrokes.



Cash... Cashes in on Wimbledon



Lendl... cut to size

Not once in four Cash service games in the set did Lendl manage to win a point while the Australian achieved breaks in the third and fifth games.

Two beautifully disguised lobs by Cash and a loose volley by Lendl, whose play in the fore-

court was erratic to say the least, helped the Australian claim the first of these breaks and two magnificent backhand passes brought the second.

By now it had become almost a formality for Cash to hold his serve and he went two sets up with another love game.

Mansell wins French Grand Prix

LE CASTELLET, France (Agencies) — Britain's Nigel Mansell did his homework during the practice sessions that allowed him to repeat as the winner of the French Grand Prix champion Sunday.

Mansell knew his car well enough to be able to hold off his hard-charging Williams-Honda teammate, Brazilian Nelson Piquet, by 7.711 seconds. Mansell's total time was 1 hour, 37 minutes, an average speed of 188.560 kmph.

France's Alain Prost again was frustrated in an attempt to gain his record 28th Formula One Grand Prix victory, coming in third, more than 55 seconds behind Mansell.

Mansell gained his second Grand Prix victory of the season and ninth of his career after running in race conditions after setting a practice lap record in qualifying on Friday.

Mansell's final time was a new record on the new circuit. He won last year in 1:37:19.272. The course was shortened last year. He averaged 188.560 kmph.

Piquet fell behind Mansell and Prost after pitting the second time but rapidly moved back into second place. In the 68th lap he had the fastest time for one circuit during the race, 1:09.548, breaking a 1:09.993 mark set during last year's race by Mansell. Mansell had set a practice mark with a 1:06.454 lap Friday.

Piquet was in contention until the 64th lap when he was trailing by 985 seconds. Then he took a chance to get new tires. However he stalled the engine and he was out in 15.91 seconds after taking 30th lap.

Egypt has modest hopes in Universiad

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is sending only three teams to the World Student Games (Universiad) opening in Zagreb Sunday, and they have modest hopes of winning.

The country's 37 players, accompanied by 13 officials, will compete in volleyball, basketball and fencing, team supervisor Hassan Hamdi told Reuters.

A total of 6,600 athletes from 118 nations will take part in the games, which end on July 21.

Hamdi, chairman of the Egyptian Volleyball Federation (EVF) said other sports federations made excuses for not fielding teams and the three squads taking part were not expected to return victorious.

"We are going because we must be represented," he said.

Cairo's Al-Ahram Newspaper quoted the basketball team's coach, Mahmoud Amer, as saying he took no responsibility for his side's performance at the games.

He said the team was not ready because the players did not have enough training due to exams and conflicting schedules with Egypt's national team, for which some also play.

"I know there is no other coach to travel with them," he said. "Otherwise I would have given up at once."

Aouita, Cram look set to smash world records

OSLO (R) — Middle-distance rivals Said Aouita and Steve Cram confirmed they are poised to smash more world records with sizzling performances in the men's 1,500 metres and mile respectively at Saturday night's Bislett Games Grand Prix athletics meeting.

Aouita, the world record holder, ran the fastest time of the year when he clocked three minutes 30.69 seconds after running the last lap on his own.

The time was more than a second outside his world mark but last evening's run, which came just two days after he ran the second fastest mile ever, underlined the slight Moroccan is fast approaching his peak form.

"I really tried to heat my own world record but conditions were not perfect," Aouita said. "I think it was too windy and cold."

Aouita, who is also the Olympic champion and world record

holder over 5,000 metres, still will not commit himself on what distance he will run at the world championships starting in Rome next month.

But there remains a good chance that he will opt for the 5,000 metres and deny track fans the excitement of a clash with Cram, Britain's world 1,500 metres champion and mile record holder.

Whatever distance he runs in Rome, Aouita is confident of victory. "I won't lose in Rome, absolutely not," he told reporters in Helsinki last week. "I know I have to lose sometime, it would be a good thing for me mentally to lose a race, but it won't be in Rome."

Cram, who won the dream mile in 3:50.08, second fastest time this year after Aouita's 3:46.76 in Helsinki last Thursday, also showed he is timing his preparation for Rome to perfection.



ANYBODY WATCHING? Al Nasser striker Rasmia Murad receives the ball and develops a winner against Al Jil team in a match played on Sunday within the playoffs of the Jordan Cup Tournament. Al Jil won the match 2-1 (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

W. German newspapers praise Graf

BONN (R) — West German newspapers Sunday heaped praise on 18-year-old Steffi Graf despite her straight-sets defeat by Martina Navratilova in Saturday's Wimbledon tennis singles final.

"Hold your head up high, Steffi," "don't be said, Steffi, we're all proud of you," were typical headlines.

Graf succumbed to the world number one 7-5, 6-3 in what was her first defeat and Navratilova's first championship of the season.

The mass-circulation newspaper Bild Am Sonntag blamed lady luck. "Three times she was on the verge of breaking her opponent's serve. But then came the net cords for Navratilova — and Steffi was powerless against that," it said.

There was some consolation for West German tennis fans, though, with Claudia Kohde-Kilsch's win in the women's doubles final, partnering Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova.

Branson: Balloon might have hit a snag in abortive touchdown

LONDON (AP) — Richard Branson, safely home from his trans-Atlantic hot-air balloon voyage, has spoken of the last, frightening miles of flight he made with his colleague Per Lindstrand.

Both men plunged into the sea off the coast of Scotland on Friday after they lost control of the huge craft following an abortive touchdown in Northern Ireland.

Branson and Lindstrand will go into the Guinness Book of Records as the first hot-air balloonists to cross the Atlantic, but their crash landing at sea may not meet the more exacting standards of the Paris-based International Aeronautics Federation (IAF), officials said.

Nigel Tasker, secretary of the IAF's International Ballooning Committee, said the world distance record has two specific rules: No one may leave the craft until final landing and the balloon must remain under control until final landing.

Before heading to his country home in Oxfordshire, Branson, 36, told a reporter that when they considered the Irish landing, he and Lindstrand saw a lot of houses and did not want to para-

chute out and abandon the craft over an inhabited area.

"We had a good trajectory for landing on the beach but as we came in, we realised our speeds were greater than we thought," he said.

Once 'out at sea again, they tried to fire the explosive bolts to free the capsule from the balloon, but failed, Branson said.

"We were moving across the water at perhaps 320 kilometres an hour. That was what it felt like. Per compared the capsule to one of the fastest boats in the world."

"We were worried because we had been told there was a danger that the capsule would become a submarine and we would be drowned inside it or pushed on to rocks at a tremendous speed," Branson said.

The millionaire businessman said they knew the separation would be dangerous and had done three test-firings of the explosive bolts in the United States before their takeoff from Maine

early Thursday.

"It was probably our touchdown in Ireland which damaged something," he said.

Still trembling as he remembered the last moments of the flight, Branson went on: "Per said, 'jump,' but the balloon had started rising. We could not get out of the front door so we both went up on to the top of the capsule as we were hurtling along."

"Per said, 'for god's sake go. He threw himself over but I wasn't sure he would survive. Two seconds later, we were up at 40 metres and I definitely would not have survived if I had gone then."

Branson said he climbed back into the capsule.

"I suspect we were up to 3,000-4,000 metres by then as I was having difficulty in breathing. So I put the oxygen mask on."

He said the balloon finally popped down through the clouds at 1,000 metres. "I wondered again whether to throw myself out but

decided against it."

Branson went back into the capsule and wrote a couple of words to his family. "I just scribbled two words, 'love you' and left it there in the capsule, presuming it would be found."

"My breathing got slightly easier so I knew I would not have to parachute quite so far. I did not know from how high up I was jumping and it was also into cloud. I wondered if the parachute would open."

"As I came down I had a magnificent view of the ship and two helicopters. ... I brought her down as slowly as I could but she was coming down fairly hard in the end."

"About two seconds before the capsule hit the water I fell over the back of the roof. It was a wonderful feeling to be in the water, even though it was a rough sea. It was fabulous."

He was then pulled from the water by helicopter, a speedboat was sent to find Lindstrand, and the two men were taken to safety.

Responding to suggestions that he should pay for the rescue of the Virgin Atlantic Flyer balloon and its crew, Branson replied: "I have decided to put 25,000 pounds (\$40,000) towards the building of a new lifeboat."

"I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the people in the helicopters and to the medical people on the ship who kept me going and lent me clothes."

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RAINBOW

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ALIENS

Performances 7:15, 9:15, 11:15, 13:15



Cinema

OPERA

Tel: 675573

TOM BOY

Performances 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30



Cinema

PLAZA

Tel: 675571

3,15

Performances 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30



Cinema

RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

TWINKLE TWINKLE LUCKY STARS

Performances 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15



Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Batshon

AMMAN — Last week the U.S. dollar moved higher but was trading within a very thin range because of the uncertainty about the dollar direction and the unclear decisions taken in the Venice summit by the leaders of the nine economic countries.

The dollar traded between 0.342-0.346 fils on the Jordanian dinar. Local banks and financial companies were covering their short dollar positions because they feared that the dollar will move higher this week. Charts still indicate that the dollar could move a little bit lower this week but within a very narrow trading range. The expected trading range for this week could be 0.338-0.345 fils.

The pound sterling traded lower against the dollar because of the dollar's strength. The pound traded between 0.555-0.561 fils.

The D.M. and the S.F. also traded lower because of the higher dollar. The D.M. traded between 0.1825-0.1845 fils, the Swiss franc traded between

0.2185-0.2225 fils and the Austrian shilling between 0.241-0.245 fils.

The Lebanese lira moved to a historic record low against the dollar because of the bad political situation in Lebanon. It traded between 420-410 L.L./JD. The Syrian lira traded between 100-95 S.L./JD.

The Iraqi dinar traded between 0.250-0.260 fils, the Egyptian pound between 0.160-0.170 fils and the Kuwaiti dinar between 1.200-1.210 on the JD. Metals traded lower because of the dollar's strength. Gold fell to a low of \$442 an ounce from a high of \$451 an ounce and silver from \$7.50 to \$7.20 an ounce.

Charts still indicate that the metals will move higher within the next three trading weeks. Gold prices in Amman based upon the daily bulletin presented by the Jordan Jewellery Store are as follows:

Gold 21 carats per gramme JD 4,150-4,100
Gold 18 carats per gramme JD 5,000-4,500

Third World debt, common fund for goods top UNCTAD agenda

GENEVA (Agencies) — Officials from about 150 countries will be looking for ways to give new impetus to solving the Third World debt crisis when the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) opens this week.

UNCTAD officials are optimistic that the conference, its seventh full session and the first in four years, will also see a revival of plans for its common fund for commodities, which has languished for lack of sufficient ratification by members since it was approved in 1980.

But their goals for the July 9-31 meeting are much less ambitious than those which UNCTAD once had for a new economic order to redistribute wealth across the North-South divide.

"Anyone who expects that UNCTAD VII is going to effect evolution for the better and solve the problems of the world economy is probably expecting too much," Secretary General Kenneth Dadaie said.

The meeting will hear speeches from ministers and national leaders including French President Francois Mitterrand, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

While formally a meeting place for rich and poor, UNCTAD has traditionally been dominated by the developing world and has found an increasingly unsympathetic audience in Washington since the Reagan administration came to power in 1981.

That coolness is shown in the low level U.S. participation at this meeting. The delegation will be headed by a deputy assistant secretary of state, Mr. Dennis Goodman.

But Mr. Dadaie, a Ghanaian diplomat, has tried to steer a moderate course and so increase UNCTAD credibility in the West since taking over last year.

He met a U.S. request to put more emphasis on the role the private sector can play in development — with surprisingly little resistance to that idea from the East Bloc since Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev's, policy of "Perestroika", or reform.

UNCTAD's work has focused on the debt and commodity prices — creating agreements to support minimum price levels while preventing speculative surges in times of short supply.

But its showcase accord, the international tin agreement, collapsed in 1985 — with debts of \$1.5 billion — after its buffer stock tried to defend unrealistically high prices.

Mr. Dadaie believes UNCTAD now can play a different role, as an intermediary between the industrial and Third World nations.

The key issue is one which has been the province of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank — finding ways to address the overindebtedness of developing countries.

Inside the UNCTAD secretariat the feeling is strong that the current debt strategy — case-by-case reschedulings and the Baker plan for promoting growth — has

failed. U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker launched his initiative at an IMF meeting in Seoul in October 1985, calling for commercial banks to step up lending to Third World countries to stimulate growth, along the model of South Korea itself.

But one UNCTAD debt official said: "The Baker plan is dead. There's room for one or two or maybe three Koreans in the world, but not for a hundred."

UNCTAD officials hope the conference will at least help build a consensus for a capital increase for the World Bank and an increase of funding for the regional development banks, sure to be an issue at the next IMF/World Bank meeting in September.

They also hope for further steps towards forging the debt of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

But their less modest dreams, which are likely to meet a cool reception from Western powers, include convincing rich countries of three "musts": Existing debt must be written off, interest rates cut and growth stimulated in the industrial world.

UNCTAD is also confident the Soviet Union will join the common fund for commodities, a financial pool to support price stabilisation agreements.

The United States signed the common fund agreement under President Carter but has refused under President Reagan to ratify it. Only 59.06 per cent of the \$470 million of capital has been pledged, short of the two-thirds required to start operation.

Soviet participation would not in itself be enough. But other East Bloc countries might take it as a signal to join, OPEC oil producers and Norway have agreed to guarantee contributions for a number of developing countries, if they ratify.

On similar issues, an UNCTAD report says that any solution to the problem of the Third World foreign debt should ensure that each debtor country's obligation was consistent with export prospects and the import requirements of their development programmes.

Stressing the need for a general framework on debt, the report said that the international trading

and financial environment should also be taken into account.

The report noted common elements in the situation of all debtor countries such as their susceptibility to external environment, equitable burden-sharing among debtors and creditors and the need for new money flows.

It also appealed to major market economy countries to enlarge access to their markets for Third World export commodities and adopt monetary policies aimed at lower interest rates.

"An international framework for debt negotiation and rescheduling should be strengthened, particularly by establishing a more active intergovernmental presence vis-a-vis commercial creditors," the report said.

It enumerated the factors that should be included in the international framework as:

— Satisfying the import requirement of an agreed programme for recovery and development, including medium-term investment programmes.

— Supporting the framework through lending levels of multilateral financial institutions and bilateral donors.

— Stretching debt service on the basis of best available judgement of expected stream of export earnings and import requirements.

— Using full range of financial instruments and techniques, including debt-equity swaps, writeoffs of official development assistance debts and the refinancing of officially-guaranteed export credits on easier terms.

The report said that given such a debt strategy special measures would have to be taken to assist the least developed countries as foreign debt was now over 50 per cent of their gross domestic product.

On commodities it called for improved and augmented financial facilities for compensating commodity export shortfalls of Third World countries.

The report also advocated a new round of intergovernmental consultations on individual commodities, aimed at producer-consumer cooperation, including petroleum, in addition to the goods on the "indicative list" of the integrated programme for commodities.

Hungary warns of hardships

BUDAPEST (AP) — The ruling Communist Party called for a more market-oriented economy, including active support of private enterprise, in a manifesto published Saturday by the state MTI news agency.

Entitled "stand of the central committee of the Hungarian socialist workers' party," the 12-page manifesto warned Hungarians to expect belt-tightening and served notice of a crackdown on economic crime.

The manifesto said a new taxation system is needed that reduces the burden on producers and increases it on consumers, MTI reported. It called for the introduction of taxes on personal income and sales.

Some of its points were not new, indicating the party was seeking to close a gap between economic theory and practice. MTI said the points reflected agreements reached Thursday at a central committee meeting on the economy.

Hungary gained a reputation for relative prosperity and innovative economic reforms in the 1970s, but now is struggling to improve sagging performance.

Problems include a foreign debt of \$10 billion — the highest in the Soviet Bloc on a per capita basis — along with persistent inflation of five per cent or more has hurt people on fixed incomes.

White House unveils radical agricultural trade offer today

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration will unveil on Monday an offer to dismantle farm subsidies by the year 2000 which if accepted, would radically change farming worldwide.

Reagan administration officials said the offer, the most sweeping farm proposal ever tabled by the United States in international negotiations, is designed to reverse the global trend toward government subsidies which has thrown world commodity markets into chaos.

"In a sense, we are offering them (other nations) our market if they will do the same," U.S. Agriculture Undersecretary Daniel Amstutz said of the proposal.

Under the plan, the U.S. will offer to dismantle all its agricultural subsidy programmes over ten years — programmes affecting exports, import barriers, and domestic handouts to farmers — which have an effect on commodity markets.

Government aid could still be given to farmers under the U.S. plan only if it were separated or "decoupled" from any impact on production or trade.

The proposal is designed primarily to cut the skyrocketing trade negotiations. In the so-called Kennedy and Tokyo rounds of global trade negotiations, reductions in tariffs, rather than domestic subsidies, were the major focus of the bargaining.

While the U.S. proposal is seen in Washington as a bold move, farm analysts were sceptical the gambit would succeed.

"I'll believe it when I see it (a global agreement)," said Mr. Robert Thompson, dean of the

the subsidies.

Another aim of the U.S. offer — to be tabled at a meeting of the agriculture negotiating group for the Uruguay round of trade talks under the watchdog organisation GATT — is to entice countries to jointly reduce the subsidies, thereby easing the political pain each country must suffer as supports are cut.

To implement a ten-year phase-out of farm subsidies, the United States will propose that negotiators arrive at a formula to measure the level of subsidies in each country, which then would be used as a basis for agreed cuts.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has done preliminary calculations of a measure of subsidies it calls the producer subsidy equivalent, which American officials believe would be a good starting point for the talks.

This would be a major departure from past failed agricultural trade negotiations. In the so-called Kennedy and Tokyo rounds of global trade negotiations, reductions in tariffs, rather than domestic subsidies, were the major focus of the bargaining.

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"I'll believe it when I see it (a global agreement)," said Mr. Robert Thompson, dean of the

college of agriculture at Indiana's Purdue University.

If the plan were approved, American sugar and dairy farmers would have to lift quotas on imports that prop up domestic prices, and grain farmers would see guaranteed prices gradually cut. A U.S. programme to subsidise exports to the Soviet Union and other buyers would have to be ended.

While no U.S. farm organisations or congressmen — who were briefed on the proposal last month — have criticised the proposal publicly, some are clearly uncomfortable about the possibility of ending years of government aid.

According to Agriculture Department figures, U.S. farmers rely on government handouts for about a third of their income.

"Put me down as sceptical," Democratic Senator Tom Baschle of South Dakota, a critic of administration farm policy, told Reuters after a recent briefing on the plan.

Negotiators for the 12-member European Community and for Japan also are expected to balk at accepting the subsidy cuts. A spokesman for the Community here said while details of the proposal are not yet known, Europe would not accept complete free trade in agriculture.

In parts of Europe, especially in the German state of Bavaria and in southern European countries, small farms cannot compete in a free market with large-scale enterprises in North and South America and Australia, the European official said.

Siemens expects lower profit

BRUSSELS (R) — West German electronics and electricals giant Siemens, whose business has been hit by a rise in the value of the mark against the dollar, said its profits in the current financial year would fall.

Managing board chairman, Mr. Karlheinz Kaske, did not give any profit figure but told a news conference that business this year had turned out to be worse than expected.

Mr. Kaske's statement confirmed a reduced earnings forecast made by Siemens last week, which took markets by surprise and caused its share price to tumble.

Siemens, West Germany's fourth largest company, now expects its net profit in the year ending in September to be below 1985/86 profits of 1.47 billion marks (\$800 million).

However, Mr. Kaske said he was somewhat more optimistic about the 1987/88 business year, when he hoped turnover as well as incoming orders would rise at a faster pace.

The news that Siemens was not doing as well as expected, knocked nearly 46 marks (\$26) off its share price in Frankfurt last week and depressed prices across the board. Siemens stock closed at 695.50 marks (\$386) on Friday.

The company has said that the drop in the value of the dollar as well as a revised method for calculating corporate profits would have an adverse effect on its earnings this year.

Mr. Kaske said that about 10,000 Siemens employees had had their working hours cut because of slacker business this year.

Italy buys more Iranian oil

ROME (OPECNA) — Italy purchased over 16 per cent of its oil requirements from Iran during the first two months of the current year, Mr. Ferdinando De Camillis, newly appointed representative of ENI, the Italian state-owned oil company, in Tehran, said here.

In an interview with the Iranian News Agency, Mr. Camillis added that last year, Iran supplied 10.8 per cent of Italy's oil needs, while Saudi Arabia and Libya provided 21.5 and 15.5 per cent respectively.

Negotiations were currently being undertaken on an agreement under which Italy would pay for Iranian oil exports on a quarterly basis, Mr. Camillis disclosed.

Turkey, Qatar discuss \$12b gas pipeline

DOHA (R) — Qatar and Turkey Sunday ended their third round of talks on the feasibility of constructing a \$12 billion pipeline to carry Qatari gas to Turkey and Western Europe. The two sides agreed to resume their two-year-old discussions in Ankara in October on technical aspects of the proposed pipeline, of more than 1,500-kilometre from Qatar to Turkey across Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. A Qatari petroleum ministry official told Reuters his country "is very much interested in securing markets for our huge gas reserves once they reach the exporting stage."

Doha gave the go ahead in May to the first phase of operations at its offshore north field gas reserve by the Franco-American consortium Technip-Bectel. The first phase is expected to produce 23 million cubic metres of gas by the end of 1990, while Qatar's total reserves of non-associated gas is estimated at 10 billion cubic metres. A Turkish official at the talks was quoted by the English language Gulf Times as saying Ankara was ready to help finance part of the project.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JULY 6, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be alert for answers to plugging questions — they may be right under your nose. Be sure you're prompt in arriving for appointments or you could blow a deal.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be conscientious in keeping your promises. You will be very convincing tonight, but don't try to force any issues.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An official can be quite helpful to you today. Avoid having any business discussions in the afternoon and evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Attempt to discover what has been bothering a fellow employee. Make it an early evening and plan for tomorrow.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be more cooperative in planning entertainments with friends. Smooth out creative ideas you have.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) That home situation will require plenty of thought if it is to be resolved. Entertaining could help your career tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If explanations to others are in order, make them immediately. Tonight is good for relaxing at home and enjoying the kin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can get great advice from an expert on finding a better system for handling your assets if you start early.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Personal happiness is of paramount importance to you right now, so work toward gaining it as soon as possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Think more about controlling your own future and stop talking about what could be. Be careful dressing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you stay around those with inquisitive minds today, you could learn a good many things of great importance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Consider what your valued friends expect of you and deliver on it. Be more kind and more thoughtful at home.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be conscientious and accurate in completing some far-away matters. Study a plan before going ahead with it.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have very definite opinions, but should be taught to listen to what others have to say. It is imperative that this child be kept prejudice-free, or the chance for success will escape. Your progeny will have the capacity to develop quite well intellectually.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

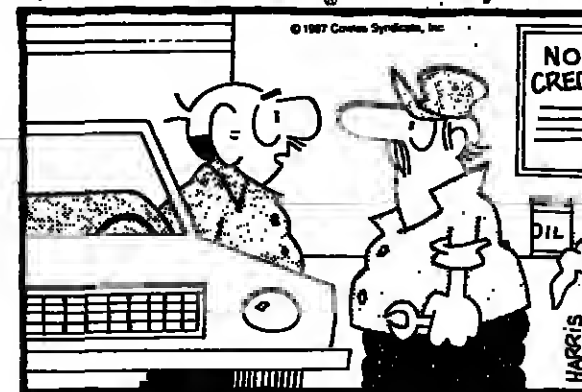


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

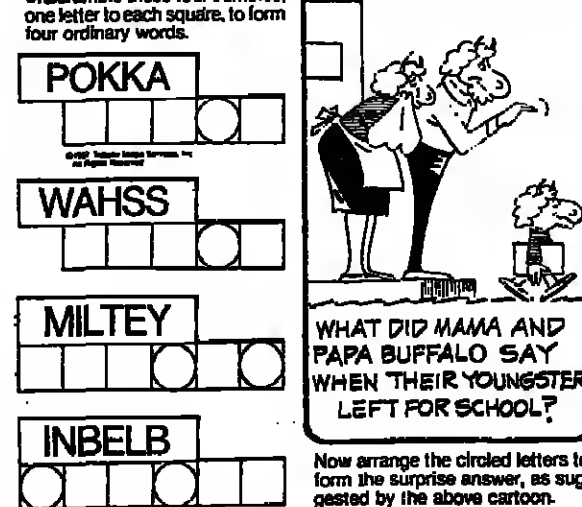
By Harris



"Rotate the tires? Don't they rotate while I'm going down the road?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

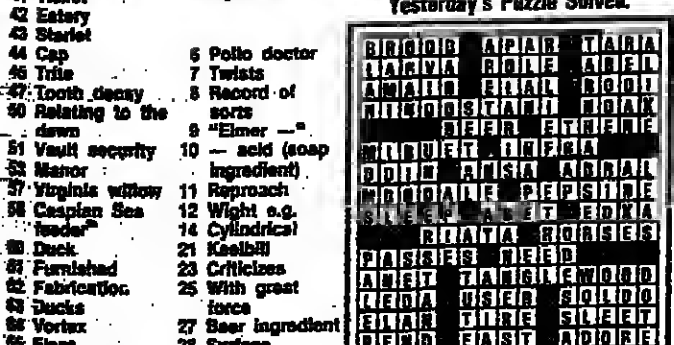


Print answer here: "POKKA, WAHSS, MILTEY, INBELB"
(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Coburn



Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:



44. Past
45. Curly's pal
46. Youngster
47. Gaelic
48. Old-time actor
49. Ayas
50. Sorecole
51. Sweet drinks
52. Youngster
53. Gaelic
54. Old-time actor
55. Ayas

New clashes erupt in Seoul after student dies of injuries

SEOUL (R) — More than 2,000 youths shouted "down with the military dictator" and battled riot police Sunday after a student died of head injuries suffered during an anti-government demonstration.

Lee Han-Yol, 21, from Seoul's Yonsei University, was the first to die as a result of battles between police and demonstrators in South Korea last month. He became a symbol of anti-government feeling when he was hit by a tear gas canister on June 9 and fell into a coma.

The demonstrators held a memorial service for Lee at the Yonsei campus and tried to march out, hurling rocks. One thousand riot policemen fired tear gas to disperse them.

The protesters regrouped and marched through the main gate of the campus towards the nearby hospital where Lee's body lay. Witnesses said the youths trampled and burned a wreath sent by ruling party Chairman Roh Tae-woo and shouted: "Don't be deceived by Roh, sweep away military dictators."

The violence was the most se-

rious since President Chun Doo Hwan last Wednesday made a dramatic bid to calm nationwide protests against his rule. Mr. Chun accepted Mr. Roh's advice to allow direct presidential elections this year and other democratic reforms long demanded by the opposition.

Lee Han-Yol had been kept alive artificially for over three weeks. When he finally died early Sunday, the authorities rushed 5,000 riot police to the Yonsei campus and hospital.

After 10 hours, in the face of angry protests from Lee's relatives and opposition leaders, they withdrew with the warning that they would intervene if trouble broke out.

Lee's father earlier demanded that police leave the hospital and challenged President Chun Doo Hwan's government to go ahead with promised democratic re-

forms. "The police should stand down. If they do not, it means the president's proposals for political freedoms are all a fake," Lee Byung-Sup told reporters outside the hospital mortuary.

Lee's mother Pae Yo-Sim wailed and screamed "pull out the riot police. The government must apologise."

His father demanded that his son be buried in the national cemetery after five days of mourning.

Main opposition leader Mr. Kim Young-Sam came to the hospital mortuary to pay his last respects and said his Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) wanted the government to pull back the security forces which were aggravating a tense situation.

Seoul police chief Kwon Bok-Kyong said in a statement: "The police express deep condolences to the bereaved family and regret the incident. But it is most important for the people to exercise restraint. The police will do their utmost to avoid repetition of a similar incident."

On Friday, ordinary citizens, who shocked the government by supporting student rioters last month, told a large student gathering at Yonsei not to cause trouble, and to give Mr. Chun and his party a chance to honour their promises.

However, the next few days may be tense, now that Lee has become a martyr for the anti-government cause. A huge banner, printed from a Reuters photograph taken at the time, was hung across Yonsei campus, showing Lee slumped in the arms of a colleague, blood dripping from his head.

The other leading opposition politician Kim Dae-Jung said of Lee: "I regret he died without knowing today's progress toward democracy... His death will become a burning torch lighting the way for the path of democracy in this country."

The opposition has refused to start talks with the DJP over constitutional revision until amnesties are declared, and it has called for Mr. Chun to resign as leader of the DJP.

125 killed in Zaire train-truck collision

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — The government has declared two days of mourning for the 125 people killed when a truck crashed into a train at an unguarded crossing in south eastern Zaire.

The vehicles collided Thursday at Kasumbalesha Shaba, near the Zambian border, about 100 kilometres south east of Lubumbashi and about 400 kilometres north of Lusaka, Zambia, the national Zaire Press Agency reported Saturday.

It quoted witnesses as saying the truck hit the train when its Zambian driver failed to stop at the crossing or see the approaching train.

"The truck hit the train full on at the crossing," a diplomat in Harare, Zimbabwe, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press.

"It struck the first car behind the engine. The car overturned, pulling the second car off the rails as well. I understand the dead and injured were mostly in those cars."

The diplomat also said 125

people were killed, but he didn't know how many were injured, how many survived or whether the truck driver was killed.

On Saturday, the government declared a national two-day period of mourning, and three government ministers visited the injured at La Gecamines Hospital in Lubumbashi, the press agency reported.

The agency quoted witnesses as saying the truck was towing a trailer loaded with merchandise from Zambia.

It quoted National Railway officials as blaming an unprotected railroad crossing for the accident and saying it was the third accident in recent months.

The worst previous train accident in Africa killed up to 120 people when a train derailed in Algeria on Jan. 26, 1982, according to the Information Please Almanac.

The worst train accident in history killed 543 people when a train derailed in Modane, France, on Dec. 12, 1917, according to the World Almanac.

COLUMNS 7&8

Heavy rains expose diamonds in the street

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — Thousands of people flocked to the south eastern town of Boajidu after heavy rains exposed diamonds in the dirt streets, officials said. The government has dispatched army and security forces to maintain law and order and guard against smuggling. More than 2,000 prospecting licenses have been issued. Mines Ministry officials said. The scramble for the gems began after the heavy rains washed away topsoil from the streets and exposed the diamonds.

Man using ropes safely leaps 60 metres

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A photojournalist, who used ropes to jump safely from a 22-story building, said he wanted to discourage people from committing suicide. A newspaper has reported. "The craziness lasts only a few seconds, time enough, though, to remember the good things of life," Joao Fernandes de Paula told O Globo newspaper. He said he videotaped the fall and will use the tape in an anti-suicide TV advertisement campaign. Fernandes de Paula jumped 198 feet (60 metres) from a building on Thursday in the city of Goiania, 824 miles (1,374 kilometres) north east of Rio.

Saint holds condom in anti-AIDS drive

PAMPLONA, Spain (R) — Posters showing Pamplona's patron saint San Fermin holding a condom have gone up in bars and cafes in this northern Spanish city in a drive against the killer disease AIDS. The locally-based Citizens' Anti-AIDS Commission which produced the poster will also distribute free condoms to thousands of young people expected in the city for next week's San Fermin Festival. The posters carry the legend: "In Pamplona for San Fermin, condom. It's prevention that works." Condoms can prevent the spread of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) by sexual contact. Some shocked residents say the poster is offensive and out of keeping with the traditions of city's annual bullfighting and drinking festival.

1,000 Brazilians sack food stores

SAO PAULO (R) — About 1,000 unemployed Brazilians have sacked government food stores in a town in the drought-stricken north east, a government official has said. They looted more than 25 tonnes of food from two schools and a government health centre in the town of Apodi, a spokesman for the state of Rio Grande do Norte said. In recent months thousands of Brazilians have sacked food stores in several states in the north east. On June 1 Rio Grande do Norte declared a state of emergency in 136 of its 151 districts.

Women riot at funeral of beauty queen

COLOMBO (R) — Thousands of weeping women demanding a last glimpse of a Sri Lankan movie star clashed with police and forced the actress's family to speed up the funeral. Mourners pelted police with stones when their demands for the coffin of 19-year-old Raman Bartholomew to be opened were rejected. Police had to use force to disperse the crowd of about 10,000 at a Colombo cemetery. The actress's death last week was first reported as a road accident but her fiancé, actor Kamal Addararachchi, was arrested after a magistrate ruled it was homicide. Addararachchi told police Bartholomew, a former Miss Sri Lanka, fell from his jeep when they were driving through a Colombo suburb. Medical experts told an inquiry the head injuries which killed the actress were not consistent with her fiancé's account. The teenage actress played leading roles in several popular Sinhalese films and represented Sri Lanka in the Miss Universe contest in 1985.

Gina Lollobrigida turns 60

ROME (R) — Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida dismissed her 60th birthday Saturday, comparing herself to a good wine which improves with age. "La Lollo," as Italian newspaper dubbed her early in her career, has been making movies for 40 years. She took the cinema world by storm in the 1950s with roles in such films as Trapeze, the Hunchback of Notre Dame and Solomon and Sheba. In recent years Lollobrigida, who was feted Saturday by long articles in Italian newspapers with headlines such as "Gina's splendid 60," has been devoting much of her time to her second career as a photographer. Born on July 4, 1927 in the countryside south of Rome, Lollobrigida says she hardly takes notice of her birthdays and is not ready for any sort of retirement. "I am like a good wine which improves with age," she told one newspaper.

Lions Club International to admit women

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The Lions Club International voted overwhelmingly Saturday to admit women members to what has been an all-male service organisation. An amendment to remove the stipulation that all members be male was approved by 77 per cent of those voting at the club's international convention in Taipei. "The presence of women should add new life and vitality to Lions Club International," said Brian Stevenson of Canada, the international president. The Lions have 1.35 million members in 162 countries. A vote to allow women members worldwide narrowly missed the required two-thirds majority at the international convention last year. The service club's board of directors unanimously voted in May to encourage its clubs to admit women in the United States, after the supreme court made it illegal for service organisations to bar women. About 40,000 Lions Club members attended the four-day conference.

Washington doubted constitution would last

NEW YORK (AP) — George Washington, who presided over the U.S. constitutional convention 200 years ago, doubted the document would last 20 years, according to recently discovered letters and notes, The New York Times reported in Saturday's editions. More than 150 documents were found by James H. Hutson, chief of the manuscript division of the U.S. Library of Congress, and Leonard Rappaport, a retired senior archivist at the National Archives, the newspaper reported. Their 20-year search took them through private and public collections all over the United States and as far away as the county records office in Northumberland, England, the Times said. The documents were published Saturday as a supplement to the three-volume Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, which was published in 1911. Among the documents were notes by Georgia state delegate Abraham Baldwin, who wrote that Washington said the convention had been so contentious that more than once it had been "upon the point of dissolving without agreeing on any system." Washington, the first U.S. president, later told Baldwin near the end of the convention that "I do not expect the constitution to last for more than 20 years."

Students commit suicide after failing exam

BEIJING (AP) — At least 20 middle school children in the Yuncheng prefecture of Shanxi province have committed suicide in the past few years after failing the annual nationwide college entrance exam, a state-run newspaper reported Saturday. The English-language China Daily quoted a report in China Youth News that said schools in the area, which have become well-known for the large numbers of students they send to colleges, place so much pressure on students, that some have been driven to suicide. According to the report, the No. 1 middle school in Pinglu county forbids its student to sing, play or leave the school, except on Sunday. The school has raised the height of its walls and fortified its gate with barbed wire to prevent students from sneaking out, the paper said. It said in some schools, students are told, "those who enter college are heroes, those who fail are worthless wretches." The grueling three-day nationwide college exams are given each year in July.

Private plane crashes in U.S. killing 10 people

KALISPELL, Montana (AP) — A twin-engine plane crashed and burned near the small community of Lakeside, killing all 10 people on board, authorities and witnesses said.

The private plane, a Beechcraft, hit the top of pine trees 20 metres from a highway, tearing off a portion of the tail section, then cut a burning swath through trees before blowing into an open meadow. It left a trail of broken trees and wreckage for 80 metres, witnesses said. Four bodies were thrown from

the plane and six others remained in the wreckage and appeared burned beyond recognition, said Dennis Jones, a reporter for the Missoulian newspaper.

The victims were not immediately identified.

Gene Holliday, who lives nearby, said he saw the plane come in off Flathead Lake and go into a roll.

"I saw the angle and knew it was going in," Holliday said. He said the engines sounded as if they stalled.

16 hurt as pier collapses during U.S. celebrations

TOPSAIL BEACH, North Carolina (AP) — A pier jammed with hundreds of Independence Day revellers watching a fireworks show collapsed, plunging 20 to 30 people into the water and injuring at least 16, officials and eyewitnesses said.

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter flew over the water late Saturday night, and divers searched for bodies. But town manager Tony Caudill said both steps were a precautionary measure, and officials did not think anybody was left in the water.

The search ended late Saturday, and officials said they would wait until Sunday morning to inspect the pier.

The pier at Topsail Beach collapsed Saturday night just after the annual July Fourth fireworks

celebration had begun.

"It went right out from everybody," said Judy Ausley, a reporter for the Durham Morning Herald, who was at the pier. "It just collapsed." There were between 200 and 300 people on the pier at the time, she said.

There were at least 16 injuries, said Melanie Kelly, a dispatcher with the Pender County Sheriff's Department. She said she did not know if all of those injured were transported to hospitals.

Ten people were brought to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, and two of those were admitted, said Neil McDonald, a hospital administrator. Some of the remaining eight left after being treated and some were still under observation early Sunday, he said.

Palau abandons independence drive after fifth rejection

KOROR, Palau (R) — The government of Palau, the world's last United Nations trust territory, has abandoned its push for semi-independence after islanders failed to back its proposals for the fifth successive time.

Officials said no more referendum would be held on the proposed compact of self-government scheduled for November next. Sunday's final count from the

June 30 vote showed 5,500 in favour of the compact and 2,600 against — well short of the 75 per cent majority required under the constitution.

In a drastic economy measure, President Lazarus Salif Saturday sacked 900 of the 1,333 people employed by the government, easily the main employer.

"It is impractical to call another vote," government spokesman Bonafacio Basilus told Reuters.

Reagan aides reportedly formed phantom government

MIAMI (AP) — Some of President Ronald Reagan's top advisers operated a parallel government that, among other things, has been linked to the theft of briefing materials from Jimmy Carter's 1980 presidential campaign, the Miami Herald reported in Sunday's editions.

The group operated outside the traditional cabinet departments and agencies almost from the day Mr. Reagan took office, with the National Security Council coordinating its activities, congressional investigators and U.S. officials told the Herald.

The influence of fired National Security Council aide Lt.-Col. Oliver North was so great that he was able to have the orbits of surveillance satellites altered to follow Soviet ships around the world and called for the launching of high-flying spy aircraft on secret missions over Cuba and Nicaragua, the Herald quoted one unidentified source as saying.

Col. North also was said to have drafted a secret contingency plan that called for suspension of the constitution, turning control of the United States over to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, appointment of military commanders to run state and local governments and declaration of martial law during a national crisis, the Herald said.

Officials say the genesis for the phantom government may be traced to an October 1980 decision by Mr. William Casey, then Reagan's campaign manager, to create a group to monitor Mr. Carter's negotiations with Iran for the release of the 52 American hostages.

Congressional aides now link another campaign incident, the theft of Mr. Carter's briefing materials before an Oct. 28, 1980 debate, to the same group of advisers that included campaign foreign policy adviser Richard Allen, the newspaper reported.

The group also allegedly orchestrated well-publicised news leaks, including the announcement on Nov. 4, 1984 — the day Mr. Reagan was re-elected — that Soviet-made MiG jet fighters were on their way to Nicaragua, the Herald said.

There appears to have been no formal directive for the advisers' activities, and the arrangement allowed officials to claim no involvement in controversial or illegal activities, the sources said. Former National Security Adviser William Clark, late CIA Director William Casey and A-corney General Edwin Meese were included in the group's structure, the report said.

Panamanians hold massive demonstration

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Thousands of women dressed in white staged the largest anti-government protest in years as they marched through city streets while supporters honked their car horns.

The march began in a northern suburb and wound its way through middle and upper class neighbourhoods, growing in size block by block as it went to the city centre.

By the time it reached the Via Espana in the heart of the city's tourist and banking district, marchers filled the four lane street for about two kilometres.

Government security forces were stationed around the march but made no attempt to interfere with the caravan of women and cars.

The demonstration was easily the largest since the most recent round of unrest began on June 8 and was larger than those that marked Panama's last presidential election in 1984.

The opposition charged fraud in the elections and took to the streets for more than a week. Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis told reporters at a U.S. Independence Day celebration at the U.S. army's Fort Clayton in the Canal Zone that "the next few days will be very productive. There will be positive change." He declined to elaborate.

The U.S. government has been heavily involved in the latest political disturbances here. The U.S. Congress recently passed a measure calling for the military to withdraw from Panamanian politics.

President Eric Delvalle was scheduled to make a nationally broadcast speech Sunday and is expected to offer a dialogue between the government and opposition parties.

Mr. Delvalle met for more than nine hours Friday with advisers and politicians to discuss the burgeoning political crisis.

Haitians urged to continue strike today

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The ruling junta remained entrenched despite demands for its removal and plans by Haiti's strike leaders to continue nationwide protests that so far have left 24 people dead.

Shops and businesses in the capital opened Saturday for only the second time last week, following four days of a general strike called by groups demanding the government's resignation.

A communiqué broadcast Saturday by radio stations in the capital proclaimed, "Monday, the strike starts again even stronger."

Australian election heads for cliff-hanger

SYDNEY (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke enters the final week of election campaigning with his Labour Party's popularity fast dwindling against the conservative opposition.

With latest public opinion polls showing the ruling party ahead by only one point, opposition officials predicted the elections on Saturday would be a cliff-hanger. Labour strategists said Mr. Hawke would abandon his lofty high ground approach and throw himself into the last week's campaigning in an attempt to prevent a further surge in opposition popularity.

Public opinion polls published Sunday in the Sun Herald and the Times on Sunday showed the combined Liberal National Parties had cut Labour's five-point lead to one point within a week with signs of a continued swing to the opposition in many marginal seats.

Mr. Hawke, who gambled on a snap election almost eight months before his three-year term ended, boasted only last week that he was "on top of the world" as Labour appeared to be coasting to an unprecedented third term of office.

What brought about the sudden plunge in Labour's political fortunes?

Political commentators and analysts said voters appeared to be responding at last to opposition leader John Howard's prom-

ise of big cuts in taxes and government spending which had emerged as the main election issue.

Labour's attempts to demolish the tax package as a misguided measure based on wrong calculations had apparently failed to have a lasting effect, as Mr. Howard held out the prospect of fatter paypackages to the 10.5 million electorate.

Howard, whose popularity rating also climbed from 31 to 40 per cent in the past week, has pledged to reduce the top tax rate to 38 per cent from the present 49 per cent.

He promised cuts in government spending and federal funding to the states totalling 7.8 billion dollars (\$5.5 billion) to help fund the tax cuts.

Mr. Howard's pledge to curb trade union power also had hit home, particularly with coal miners and oil workers threatening strikes before the elections, the analysts said.

Mr. Hawke's tactics to deal only with general issues leaving treasurer Paul Keating to spearhead the government's attack on the opposition might have backfired, they said.

National leader Sir John (Johannes) Bjelke-Petersen, known for his maverick approach, proclaimed: "Hawke will not be in power after July 11."

Liberal Party Federal Director Tony Eggleton said his party had

forthcoming local elections to protest "repeated acts of barbarism committed by the military against innocent civilians."

Soldiers have shot and killed at least 24 people and wounded more than 90 since the strike's June 29 start.

The conflict has plunged Haiti into its most serious political crisis since President-Fore-Life-Jean-Claude Duvalier fled into French exile on Feb. 7, 1986. His departure ended almost 29 years of family dictatorship rule begun by his father, Francois Duvalier, in 1957.

picked up as much as seven per cent in one week in previous elections.

"If we are only facing the task of picking up two or three per cent, it is very achievable and will be achieved," he said.

However, Labour officials were confident that the ruling party would retain at least its present 16-seat overall majority in parliament for an unprecedented third term of office.

Labour held 82 seats, Liberal 45 and National 21 in the House of Representatives. The opposition needs a 2.3 per cent electoral swing nationwide to unseat Labour.

Mr. Hawke, in announcing the early elections on April 27, said he was forced to take the decision because the opposition had been frustrating his government's efforts to restore the country's economic health.

Mr. Keating has said local business and the international financial community are looking for a Labour victory to ensure continued economic recovery and prevent the country from becoming a "banana republic" under opposition rule.

Economists and market analysts said however that Australians could not hope for quick solutions to an economy saddled with balance of payments and foreign debt problems.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

THE WORLD'S STRONGEST DEUCE

South is dealt the following hand:

♠ NORTH ♠ SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♥ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♦ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♣ A Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

West is dealt the following hand:

♠ WEST ♠ EAST

♠ K 10 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♥ K 10 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♦ K 10 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♣ K 10 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

The dealer is South. The cards are dealt. The play begins. The dealer leads the ♠ A. West wins the trick. West leads the ♠ K. East wins the trick. East leads the ♠ Q. South wins the trick. South leads the ♠ J. West wins the trick. West leads the ♠ 10. East wins the trick. East leads the ♠ 9. South wins the trick. South leads the ♠ 8. West wins the trick. West leads the ♠ 7. East wins the trick. East leads the ♠ 6. South wins the trick. South leads the ♠ 5. West wins the trick. West leads the ♠ 4. East wins the trick. East leads the ♠ 3. South wins the trick. South leads the ♠ 2. West wins the trick. West leads the ♠ A. East wins the trick. East leads the ♠ K. South wins the trick. South leads the ♠ Q. West wins the trick. West leads the ♠ J. East wins the trick. East leads the ♠ 10. South wins the trick. South leads the ♠ 9. West wins the trick. West leads the ♠ 8. East wins the trick. East leads the ♠ 7. South wins the trick. South leads the ♠ 6. West wins the trick. 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